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MAGAZINE

Tory charges rejected, Times told

Simon breaks silence on shares row

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ANDREW PIERCE

LORD Simon of Highbury, the minister at the centre of the BP shares row, today fights back against his Tory critics, rejecting their "charges and innuendoes" that he is guilty of a conflict of interest in keeping his £2 million holding.

The Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, and former chairman of BP, breaks his silence on the affair to warn that the furor stirred up by the Conservatives might make other businessmen wary of becoming involved in government.

He describes claims against him by Tory spokesmen as without foundation, untrue and absurd.

And in an astonishing sideswipe at the Tory leadership he says that the conclusion of the arguments advanced by "what was once the party of business" was that all businessmen entering government were inevitably subject to conflict of interests and should be barred.

"That would be a shame for politics. It would be a shame for Britain," he writes in *The Times*. He voices shock that the criticism should have come not from old Labour but "an apparent champion of the free market", John Redwood.

However, he makes plain that he has no intention of standing down. "I have a thick skin and will not be deflected from the challenge of helping Britain win in Europe."

Lord Simon delivers a detailed defence of the charges



Simon: "I have thick skin and will not be deflected"

made against him by the Tories, disclosing that he had decided against selling BP shares because he judged it would have been in breach of insider dealing legislation.

As chairman of BP he had considerable insider knowledge. The day he entered the new office he took advice from Sir Michael Scholar, the Permanent Secretary at the DTI.

He was advised to put his non-BP shares into a blind trust, which he had done. That was not appropriate for his BP shares. "It was therefore decided that I should keep my BP shares until the situation is reviewed in January next year, when a further assessment of my access to insider knowledge can be made. During this period none of my BP shares will be traded. In the meantime steps have been taken to ensure that I do not allow any conflict of interest between my BP shareholding and my official business."

Confirmed on page 2, col 1

The rules also confirmed the massive centralisation of power in Downing Street that has occurred since Labour returned to power. In future ministers will have to get clearance from the Downing Street press office before they give major interviews to either newspapers or broadcasters or make media appearances. They will also have to clear the policy content of all major speeches, press releases, and policy initiatives with the No 10 private office, while the timing and form of announcements will have to be cleared with the press office.

Lord Simon describes as "absurd and totally without foundation" charges that he still takes decisions that relate to BP. "No BP-specific matters come before me. In all the flurry of political invective

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Robert Ballard announcing his discovery, with some of the artefacts in front

Titanic explorer finds graveyard of treasures

BY TOM RHODES AND NICK NUTTALL

THE explorer who found the wreck of the *Titanic* has used an underwater robot and a once-secret nuclear submarine to prowl the depths of the Mediterranean, discovering the greatest concentration of ancient shipwrecks.

Robert Ballard, whose detection of the ocean liner and the German battleship *Bismarck* have earned him a reputation as the Indiana Jones of underwater exploration, was joined by two British archaeologists in his latest venture, a project that will make recoverable almost every object ever sunk.

During a six-week expedition in May to the Mediterranean trading route that linked ancient Rome with Carthage, Mr Ballard and his team of researchers found eight ships and thousands of pristine artefacts spanning more than 2,000 years.

The area northwest of Sicily endures unpredictable storms and violent seas and is described as being similar to the infamous Bermuda Triangle, the site of numerous wrecks and lost vessels.

Until now, no big shipwreck has been discovered below 200 feet. But the modern technology employed by the Ballard expedition can extend to depths of 20,000ft, enough to reach 98 per cent of all ocean floors. "I'm convinced that the deep sea holds a vast amount of human history, more than is held in all of the museums of the world," Mr Ballard told the National Geographic Society in Washington.

Among those who took part in the exploration were Jonathan Adams of the Centre for Marine Archaeology at the University of Southampton.

and Cathy Giangrande, a conservationist at University College London. Equipped with NR-1, a US Navy nuclear submarine, *Carolyn Chouest*, a support ship, and *Jason*, an unmanned submersible vessel, the team found five Roman ships from 200 BC to AD 400, an Islamic fishing vessel from the 17th or 18th century and two ships from the 19th century.

The oldest craft, 100ft long and carrying two lead anchors, was one of the earliest Roman wrecks found. Her holds were filled with fine bronze vessels and at least eight different types of amphorae, the clay containers used to transport wine, olive oil, fish sauce and preserved fruit.

Another Roman galley carried a cargo of granite building stones and monolithic columns apparently ready for assembly into a temple.

Mr Ballard, of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution,

Mills in fight for credibility after third court attack

BY RICHARD FORD AND FRANCES GIBB

DAME Barbara Mills was fighting last night to restore her credibility as Director of Public Prosecutions as the Government further reduced her independence after the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) was castigated in the courts for the third time in a week.

Lord Justice Rose, the second most senior criminal judge, accused the CPS of repeatedly taking "a flawed approach" in its decision not to prosecute four former members of the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad.

The ruling deepened the crisis surrounding the operation of the CPS and within hours Dame Barbara held a meeting with one of the Government's Law Officers where it was agreed to extend the terms of reference of the enquiry into two "deaths in police custody" cases to cover the Derek Treadaway case.

Yesterday's judgment – which prompted immediate speculation about the DPP's future – coincides with the disclosure that the senior judiciary has delivered a damning indictment of the CPS's performance to Sir Ian Glidewell, the former Court of Appeal judge, conducting the Government review into the service.

A letter drafted on behalf of the judiciary by Lord Justice Auld is believed to conclude that the CPS is struggling to cope and that the delivery of the service on the ground is badly failing.

The critique, based on soundings from the 500-strong circuit bench and from High Court judges, will be a further blow to Dame Barbara.

Yesterday Lord Justice Auld declined to discuss the contents of the letter. But some judges have made no secret of their views that the CPS is blighted by constant delays.

caused by inadequate resources and a shortage of senior staff to take the relevant decisions.

Earlier in the High Court, Lord Justice Rose had delivered a stinging judgment in the latest challenge to a CPS decision not to bring a prosecution against police officers.

Derek Treadaway, who spent 15 years in jail before his conviction for robbery and conspiracy to rob was quashed, said at his trial that his "confession" was extracted from him by oppression and violence.

Lord Justice Rose said DPP decisions not to prosecute the officers in his case were perverse and flawed by a failure to give reasons. He accused Dame Barbara's department of not giving the "careful analysis" required to the ruling of a High Court judge who awarded Mr Treadaway, an armed robber, £50,000 compensation.

Lord Justice Rose said the CPS had breached its own test on whether there was enough evidence to prosecute the officers who allegedly tortured Mr Treadaway at Bromford Lane police station in Birmingham.

Although Dame Barbara took no part in the decisions on Mr Treadaway, yesterday's ruling further undermines her reputation and also that of the CPS.

It follows two cases last week in which she agreed to reconsider decisions not to prosecute police officers involved in incidents in which people had died in custody.

A spokeswoman for Dame Barbara said she had not been involved in the decision concerning Mr Treadaway and that she could not look at everyone of the 11,000 decisions a year taken by the CPS's central London division.

British fishermen angry over ruling

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

SPANISH trawler owners are entitled to claim compensation for the multimillion-pound losses they claim they suffered while illegally excluded from British fishing waters, the High Court ruled yesterday.

British trawlers, who say the Spanish are being rewarded for sealing British fish, responded angrily to the judgement, which could cost taxpayers more than £50 million in damages.

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Next year I'm going to choose our holiday reading

Legal move on Aids infection

The Government is considering making it an offence intentionally to infect another person with a disease, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said in a Commons written answer.

The announcement came on the day that Paul Georgiou was jailed by a Cypriot court for 15 months for knowingly infecting his British lover Janette Pink with the Aids virus.

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Property sale

The Department of Social Security is to sell its property portfolio, worth £400 million, to Partnership Property Management, a consortium led by Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank. It will be the UK's largest single real estate transaction.

Linford Christie condemned a decision by the International Amateur Athletic Federation to reduce bans on athletes found guilty of drug taking from four to two years. He said it would only increase drug-taking.

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Lord Falconer, the Solicitor-General, told the court that the Government was considering an appeal against the judgement.

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Drug bans eased

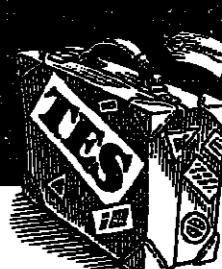
Jinford Christie condemned a decision by the International Amateur Athletic Federation to reduce bans on athletes found guilty of drug taking from four to two years. He said it would only increase drug-taking.

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A jug for table use lifted from a trading ship

GET AWAY FROM IT ALL WITH THIS WEEK'S SUMMER SCHOOL



Today's issue includes:

- Seven steps to scripting a soap opera
- The thrill of a day return to Geneva
- An American in London learning French. "Je suis pretty darn clever," she says
- David Blunkett revealing his addiction to thrillers
- Jon Snow on the realities of life as a school governor

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

SCHOOL'S OUT AND SO IS THE TES - EVERY FRIDAY

Leftwinger laughing through his teeth

This newspaper can categorically refute rumours rife at Westminster that Ronnie Campbell's teeth came out during his question on beer to industry ministers yesterday afternoon. It just looked like that.

In fact the Labour member for Blyth Valley was making a little joke. This likeable Geordie and former French publisher, described in Roth's *Parliamentary Profiles* as "unsophisticated, extrovert, fundamentalist, left-wing local councillor-miner", is quoted as saying, "I am a radical and a fighter; just an ordinary leftwinger". A one-time supporter of Arthur Scargill, Campbell is pictured with "chubby face, reddened

when he shouts (often)". But none of this quite does justice to a noisy but good-natured and funny man, who lacks the sourness often associated with the Left.

The humour came through yesterday. His question answered — what action was Margaret Beckett taking "to ensure that bar-drinkers receive full £1.10 pints in public houses?" — he put a supplementary. New Labour, he told Madam Speaker, was, of course, "not against profit". But Campbell is about as new Labour as beer and skittles. He paused, then stuck his considerable fist into his even more considerable mouth.

That is what gave reporters the idea that Mr Campbell's teeth had come out, a rumour that fast gained currency and was by sundown being recounted as fact.

But his teeth stayed in. Had he lost them he would not have been the first. Years ago, Anthony Beaumont-Dark, at that time the Tory MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, and now much missed at Westminster, was in mid-oration when — during a particularly emphatic denunciation of the Labour Party — his flying teeth left his words an emphasis even Sir Anthony had not intended. With amazing skill (perhaps born of long

practice?) the senior backbencher caught the teeth before they hit the carpet.

The near-disaster was captured on video and replayed in slow motion (with a white circle around the teeth) on *A Week in Politics*, which received a stiff complaint from the Commons authorities for misusing parliamentary video footage. The service is not for use in undermining the dignity of honourable members. Heaven forbid that this sketch should try to do that! So, as the Commons rises for a near three-month summer recess, it is with affectionate respect that we bring you a final update on the amazing Norman Baker, Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes. This sketch, announcing that "a bore is born", noticed some time ago what a broad range of domestic and world affairs Mr Baker held opinions on, and how often he offered them in the Chamber.

I was acting on a hunch, after Baker's energetic 24 interventions during the Plant Varieties Bill. Political science can now back hunch with evidence. Research shows that in the 55 days for

which this new Parliament has sat, Mr Lewis has put down exactly 300 questions, 284 of which have received a written answer, 16 having

been answered on the floor of the House.

The official estimate for the cost to the public purse of answering a written question is £107. Oral questions are a snip at £249 each. A written answer yesterday from the Prime Minister to Jim Cunningham (Lab, Coventry S) suggests that the cost of Mr Baker, so far — exclusive of salary and expenses — is £30,000. That is conservative. Some of Baker's questions have been missed, and the figure rounded down.

We wish Mr Baker a happy holiday and — may we dare hope? — a little rest. For the next session we award him an ancient post in our unwritten constitution: Gold Anorak-in-Waiting.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britons back Labour on economic policy

Gordon Brown's Budget and the Government's economic policy have received overwhelming endorsement from the public in the latest MORI poll for *The Times* (Peter Riddell writes). More people believe the Budget will be good for the country as a whole than after any previous Budget for 20 years.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, indicates that 56 per cent think the Budget will be good for the country as a whole, and 20 per cent think it will be bad. However, 29 per cent think it will be good for them personally, while 37 per cent think it will be bad. A record 57 per cent think that, in the long term, this Government's policies will improve the state of Britain's economy, while 24 per cent disagree.

Rail dispute on guards

The rail union RMT is to ballot 6,000 members at 20 train companies over industrial action in a dispute to protect the operating and safety roles of guards. Its general secretary, Jimmy Knapp, said that the Great Eastern Railway had managed to reduce the job to a few hours' training with its controversial plan to recruit commutes as part-time guards and that many firms had failed to give the level of assurance that the union was seeking.

Aberfan fund repaid

The Government agreed to repay £150,000 taken from the Aberfan Disaster Fund 30 years ago. The Wilson Government decided that the fund, set up after a waste tip at the Merthyr Vale Colliery collapsed, killing 116 children and 28 adults in 1966, should pay for removing the two remaining tips. Villagers have long campaigned for the return of the money, which was announced in a Commons written reply from Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary.

Inquest challenge fails

A High Court appeal to reopen the inquest into the death of the British burglar, suspect Wayne Douglas, failed yesterday. His family challenged the directions to the jury of Sir Montague Levine, the South London Coroner, after which a verdict of accidental death was returned. Mr Justice Laws ruled that, although Sir Montague, who has since retired, had not properly directed the jury, it would still have reached the same verdict.

Tests for drug-drivers

The first survey of drug-driving in Britain is to be launched today by Strathclyde Police to find ways of improving roadside detection. Drivers will be stopped and asked questions and to perform writing physical and memory exercises. No charges will be pressed. The survey is part of a programme involving two Strathclyde officers who were awarded £7,700 from the Home Office for research into improving training on drug-symptom recognition.

£300,000 libel award

A former Irish Minister was awarded £300,000 yesterday in a libel case against the *Sunday Independent*. It is the largest libel award ever granted in Ireland. The jury found that in 1992 Eamon De Rosay, a columnist, had accused Patsy De Rosay, a former member of the IRA, of involvement in or toleration of serious crime. They also found that he had alleged that Mr De Rosay supported anti-Semitism and violent communist oppression.

Footballer on sex charge

The Bradford City footballer Peter Beagrie appeared before magistrates on Jersey yesterday charged with three offences of indecent assault, allegedly committed while he was a Manchester City player. The 31-year-old winger also faced charges of common assault and of being disorderly. Mr Beagrie denied all the charges, which are alleged to have happened in the early hours of February 25 in two bars on the island. The trial continues.

Deposit safe from pygmy

Speculation that the body of a pygmy was the cause of an unpleasant smell emanating from a bank safe deposit box was scuttled yesterday. Staff at the NatWest branch in the City of London noticed the smell after a flood in May. However, a spokesman said they had been in touch with the owner who had assured them "there is no kind of dead body down there". She declined to disclose the identity of the owner, or the contents of the box.

Road protesters lose

Anti-road campaigners have failed in their final attempt at the Court of Appeal to stop the "missing link" in the Avon ring road being built. The case has cost the taxpayers tens of thousands of pounds. Andrew Nicolson and Barry McNeely, who received legal aid, claimed that the multimillion-pound project would cost more in human and economic terms than it would bring in benefits to the people of Bristol.

R-reg car rush begins

New cars will leave showrooms at the rate of 30 a minute today as the motor industry cashes in on what could be its last August sales bonanza. The Government is expected within weeks to end the system which changes the prefix letter on number plates and opt for a twice-yearly change, in March and September. Sales of R-registration cars this month could reach 490,000, the second highest monthly total on record.

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Blair sets tough code of conduct for ministers

Downing Street has tightened its control of Government in an effort to avoid "sleaze", reports Valerie Elliott

TONY BLAIR yesterday published a tougher "catch-all" code of conduct for ministers in an effort to clean up politics, restore public trust and enshrine the primacy of No 10.

The iron grip that Mr Blair is wielding in Whitehall is confirmed officially in the guidance which sets out strict rules on financial interests to avoid "sleaze".

Downing Street must approve all speeches, press releases and new initiatives, and their timing and presentation. Also, every interview and media appearance must be agreed with the No 10 press office.

Ministers may even have to write up the conversation of their lunches with journalists as every department has been instructed to keep a log of all media contacts. Mr Blair has also insisted on approving which duties are assigned to junior ministers.

The Prime Minister has made clear that any minister

who misleads Parliament must resign. In a foreword to the guidelines, last published in 1992, Mr Blair says: "In issuing this code, I should like to reaffirm my strong personal commitment to restoring the bond of trust between the British people and their Government. We are all here to serve and we must all serve honestly and in the interests of those who gave us our positions of trust."

Among other "dos and don'ts", ministers must not personally benefit from Air Miles accumulated in connection with official travel. However, the benefits may be used for official purposes or a minister may donate them to a charity named by the airline.

Ministers can now keep gifts up to the value of £140 — up from the previous maximum of £125 in line with inflation — but must inform their department's Permanent Secretary. Otherwise, no minister or civil servant, or mem-

ber of their family, can receive gifts, hospitality or services that may place them under an obligation.

No minister may sue for libel or launch any other legal action without first consulting the Government's law officers.

The code was implemented from the first day of the Labour Government, and Downing Street sources last night said that it would change nothing in relation to any minister, including Lord Simon of Highbury who has attracted controversy over his BP shareholding.

The code states implacably that ministers "must scrupulously avoid any danger of an actual or apparent conflict of interest between their ministerial position and their private financial interest".

In cases where ministers are brought into Government from industry, a profession or some other walk of life, the code says: "In order to avoid the danger of an actual or perceived conflict of interest, ministers should be guided in relation to their financial interests by the general principle that they should dispose of any financial interest giving rise to the actual or perceived conflict or take steps to prevent it."

The code suggests ministers may take advice from their Permanent Secretary over "actual or perceived conflict" of interest, but adds: "It is in the end for ministers to judge (subject to the Prime Minister's decision in cases of doubt) what action they need to take."

The code makes explicit that ministers and their staff are expected to preserve the privacy of Cabinet business, including opinions expressed in Cabinet and ministerial committees and documents.

Parliamentary private secretaries, MPs on the first rung of the ladder who act as the eyes and ears of ministers, are instructed for the first time to ensure that they have no conflict of interests.

A Downing Street spokesman last night conceded that the code would make life harder for ministers, but denied that it represented stronger central control: "It is the central, strategic discipline we operate in Opposition as translated to the Government. There must be proper strategic co-ordination of the Government's key mechanisms."

Leading article, page 17



Mother wins battle to decide baby's surname

BY EMMA WILKINS

A WOMAN yesterday won the right to give her illegitimate child her own surname despite the objections of the father.

The Court of Appeal ruled in favour of Dawn Wearmouth, who registered her baby as Alexander Wearmouth and rejected the plea by her former boyfriend, Mark Dawson, that the child should bear his name. The ruling overturned a decision by Taunton County Court that it was Alexander's "best interests" to bear his father's name.

Mr Wearmouth, 35, from Taunton, Somerset, kept her married name after she divorced in 1993. Her relationship with Mr Dawson ended in April last year when Alexander, now aged 16 months, was less than a month old.

Mr Dawson argued that, although Alexander lived with his mother, he should take his name rather than that of a man to whom he was not related.

Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Thorpe said using the mother's name was a natural and logical choice which could not be criticised simply

because it was also her ex-husband's. These circumstances, coupled with the all-important fact already stressed that this was the child's duly registered name, seem to us to be very powerful factors in the mother's favour, which can only be displaced by strong countervailing considerations, they said.

Roger Hayward-Smith, QC, for Mrs Wearmouth, said the lower court's ruling meant that mothers of illegitimate children could be compelled to change their names to whatever they chose.

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er their fathers wanted Catriona Duthie, for Mr Dawson, had argued that "common sense" dictated that the surname of a child should be determined by its relationship with the biological father and not the mother's ex-husband.

Mrs Wearmouth said after the judgement: "I am extremely pleased with the outcome. I am delighted that there has been a result after 15 months of going to court, which has been very stressful."

Both Mark Dawson and I can now concentrate on the primary concern which we both have which is the welfare of our child. His name is important but it is by no means the most important part of his life. All he is thinking about is his precious family name."

Mr Dawson, 34, a quality control manager, said he might take his legal battle to the House of Lords. "I am upset and extremely disappointed by the decision. Alex would have been the only child to carry my family name into the next generation. I am an only son and I come from a long line of only sons. My parents are very disappointed. We take a great deal of pride in the family."

Leading article, page 17

Hi-tech me enabled to pinpo hidden wi

Nick Viall

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Hi-tech method enabled team to pinpoint hidden wrecks

Nick Nuttall and Tom Rhodes on a revolutionary approach to underwater exploration in Mediterranean

THE British marine archaeologist Jonathan Adams said yesterday that the discoveries in the Mediterranean outlined by Robert Ballard represented the second great leap forward in the field.

"We have not seen this since the early days of scuba diving in the late 1950s when hundreds of wrecks were found in shallow waters in the Mediterranean."

Mr Adams, from the Centre for Marine Archaeology at the University of Southampton, said the difference between the wrecks discovered by the Ballard team in June and the shallow-water wrecks found over 40 years ago was the condition.

"The shallow-water ones are often broken up by currents and human interference, but these have not been interfered with by any natural or human agency since the day they went down," Mr Adams said.

"For example we can see how the ships are laid out."

The greater the depths, according to experts, the bet-

ter the preservation of recovered artefacts. Although wooden decks, rigging and upper hulls of the five Roman ships which were found had been destroyed, the timbers buried in the mud were well preserved and the cargoes appeared almost undisturbed.

Mr Adams said he had been astonished at the dexterity of the remotely operated submersible, *Jason*, which had been demonstrated around the Islamic merchant ship.

"Around that were some rather nice ceramics including extremely fragile glass artefacts which look like little mosque lamps."

"*Jason* was able to pick these up without breaking them. I could not believe it. I would not have trusted a diver to pick them up by hand let alone a robot," the researcher said.

He said yesterday that the academic community had "thrown down the gauntlet to the treasure hunters". Until now most deep-water excavations have been carried out by

private treasure hunters who, in many cases, have plundered wrecks and ruined their historical interest.

"The treasure hunters, whose interests are completely different from ours, have stated time and again that they are the only people who can deal with these deep water sites which are often in international waters and beyond national governments' control."

The treasure hunters have said only that they have the expertise and the money," the researcher, who 20 years ago worked on the excavation and recovery of Henry VIII's flagship, the *Mary Rose*, said.

"But we have demonstrated that this is not true. We had four archaeologists, two conservators and six computer scientists and engineers. We have shown that the academic community can do this and can do it bigger and better than the hunters," he added.

He said that instead of priceless artefacts going to the highest bidder, often a private collector, the ones found by the team were destined for a "publicly accessible collection".

The latest finds come after a state of underwater exploration, which has revealed Blackbeard's ship off North Carolina, Benedict Arnold's gunboats in Lake Champlain and the *I-52*, a still unrecovered Japanese cargo submarine which sank in the South Atlantic while carrying \$21 million to Hitler's Third Reich late in the Second World War.

Since the end of the Cold War, previously secret sub-ocean technology has emerged for civilian use. Once classified satellite global positioning systems, computer-enhanced sonar imagery and improved fibre-optic cables, have all been made available to explorers of the deep.

With every new method at his disposal, Mr Ballard says he is now heading for the Black Sea before a trip to the Pacific graveyard of the Battle of Midway, the turning point of the Second World War.

La Belle was captained by Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, the aristocrat who claimed Louisiana for

France. It was recovered in 1995 by the Texan administration at a cost of \$5.5 million (£3.5 million).

The French claim is with

out precedent. Scores of galleons, mainly Spanish, have been recovered this century, yet no claim has been made by a modern Spanish Government to legal ownership of either a wreck or its booty.

The British and the Dutch

have always let control over their wrecks rest with the jurisdictions in which they have been found.

La Belle was captured by

Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, the aristocrat who claimed Louisiana for



Robert Ballard directs the movements of *Jason*, the submersible robot which found the ancient shipwrecks. Jonathan Adams is seen with his hands on his chin. Below, *Jason* being lowered into the ocean, and some of the 2,000-year-old jugs it found from a former trading ship



French demand return of historic ship

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE French Government has laid claim to a 17th-century shipwreck salvaged at great public expense by the state of Texas.

France claims that, since *La Belle* was the property of the King when it sank in Matagorda Bay off Texas, in 1686, it is still French. Its embassy in Washington has written to George W. Bush, the state's Governor, stating that Paris intends to assert its "rightful" legal title to the deep.

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have always let control over their wrecks rest with the jurisdictions in which they have been found.

Laurent Mellier, the press attaché at the French Consulate in Houston, said: "I

would just say that it was the property of France when the boat sank in Texas and, historically, it has belonged to France. *La Belle* was the property of the King when La Salle was in Texas ... It was just lent to him."

Texas, which has invested as much emotion as money into the recovery of the wreck, is certain to put up a fight. The administration's position is that Louis XIV — a monarch of extravagant gesture — gave the ship to La Salle and, since it was wrecked in Texan waters and La Salle has no descendants who can assert ownership,

the wreck belongs to Texas.

Jim Bruseth, who headed the

recovery project for the Tex-

as Historical Commission,

said: "We went out and

found this ship. We went out

and raised the money to

excavate it and we're not

going to say easily or lightly if it's not ours any more."

La Belle has been described by marine archaeologists as a striking find. The hull lacks glamour and carries no gold, but materials on board have shed light on the nature of early French forays into the New World. Particularly intriguing is a cache of nearly a million glass beads, for use in trade with the Indians.

Also on board was the skeleton of a man now referred to as Dead Bob. Because the wreck was covered in silt, Dead Bob is in perfect condition, with a large portion of brain intact with the Indians.

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Also on board was the skeleton of a man now referred to as Dead Bob. Because the wreck was covered in silt, Dead Bob is in perfect condition, with a large portion of brain intact with the Indians.

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The Avebury Four lose all their appeal

Michael Hornsby on a gang which may be going away for a long time

SIR LUDOVIC KENNEDY has been driven to reconsider his opposition to the death penalty by the antisocial conduct of four intruders in his Wiltshire garden. The offenders have even tempted the veteran campaigner against injustice to reach for a shotgun himself.

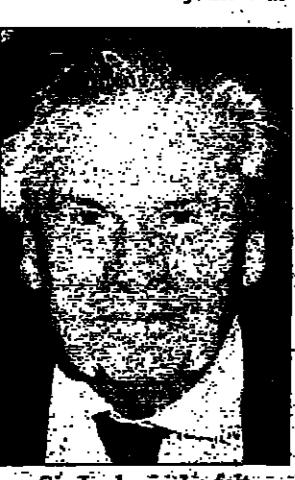
They are four peacocks who are popular among tourists visiting the historic village of Avebury but who have lost all their appeal among residents. The Avebury Four's crimes include destroying flower beds, pecking holes in cottage roofs and desecrating the cemetery. The parish council is now considering a sentence of banishment.

"The peacocks are a damned nuisance," Sir Ludovic, 78, said yesterday. "They come into the garden and eat our flowers and wild strawberries."

"There have been times when I felt like shooting them all, though of course one would never do such a thing."

Only yesterday morning, Sir Ludovic said, his wife, the former ballerina Moira Shearer, had to shoot three of the birds away. "We like to leave our gate open, but that means the peacocks can easily come in. In any case, they can fly over the gate because their wings have not been clipped."

The birds live at the 16th-century Avebury Manor, which is owned by the Na-



Sir Ludovic: he felt like shooting them



No more flying visits: villagers in historic Avebury may banish the birds, despite their popular appeal

tional Trust. Its area manager, David Riddle, said: "Clipping their wings would not stop them wandering off, but it would stop them roosting in trees where they can keep out of the way of foxes. They have always lived free and cannot be housed."

The Trust says that it is very reluctant to remove the peacocks, but it has written to the parish council to say that it would be prepared to consider such a remedy if the problems experienced have become intolerable.

That seems to be the case. Peggy Blake, the churchwarden, said: "The peacocks are undoubtedly beautiful birds, and the tourists like them, but they have become a nuisance. They pull the thatch out of cottage roofs and take flowers laid on gravestones."

Sir Ludovic's neighbour, Lady Julia Beale, said: "They are a terrible nuisance."

Gavin Topham, manager of Stones Restaurant in the village, added: "They are not very welcome here. We have a few flowerpots that stand just outside the restaurant and it got to the stage where the birds would devour the flowers almost straight after we'd planted them."

"We seem to have solved the problem now. We began running out and flapping our arms, shouting and chasing them off as soon as we spotted them reappearing outside. The guests were sometimes a bit startled by this."

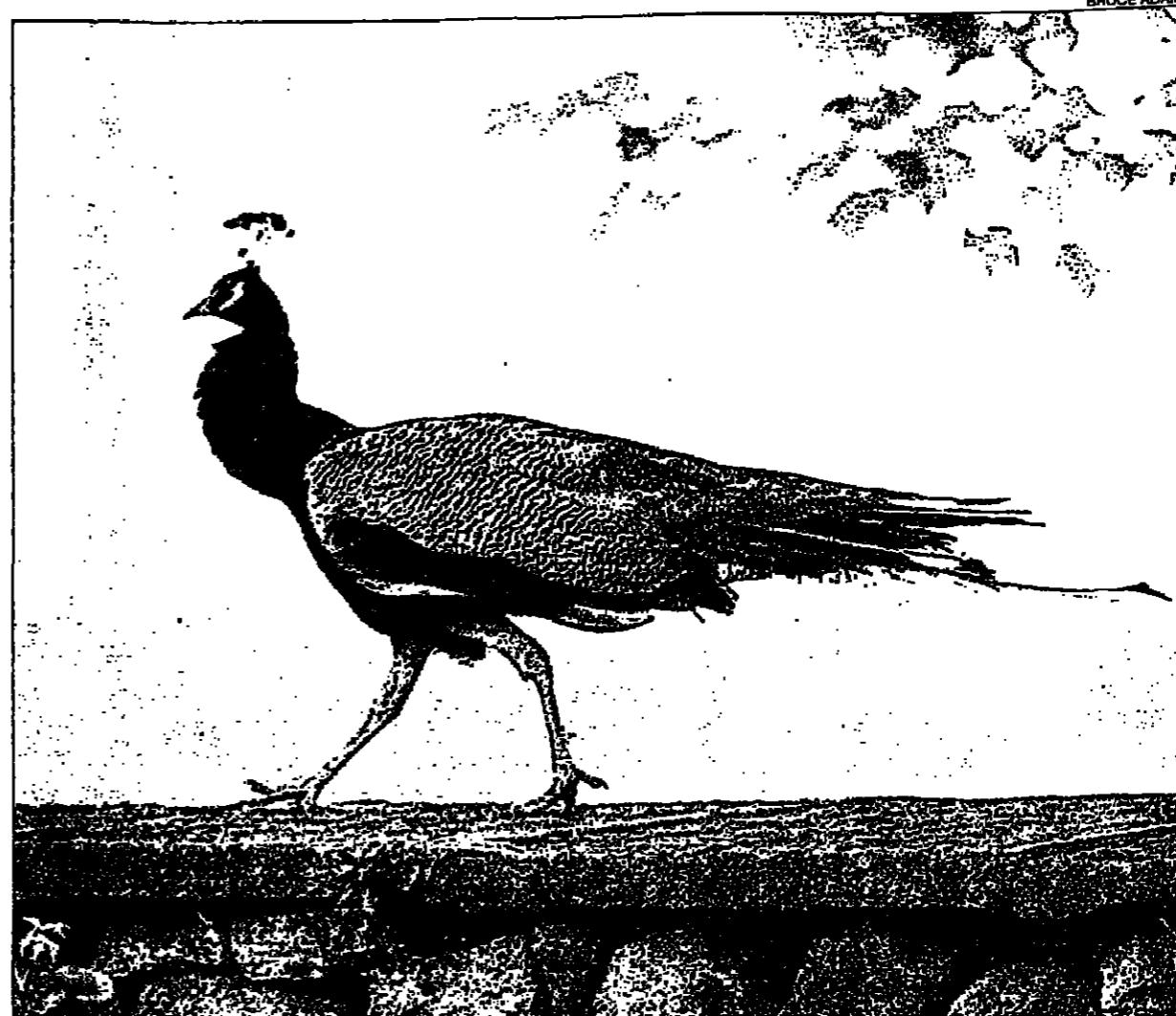
Avebury has a population of

garden flowers isn't surprising behaviour. They'll eat a very wide range of foods.

"They are also quite a size, so their physically mowing through a gardener's flowerbeds is likely to result in substantial damage."

John Cronk, the council chairman, identified a further problem: "It is not just the damage to gardens. They are large birds, with a flying range of up to a quarter of a mile, and their droppings stink to high heaven."

The Trust has offered to pay compensation for any damage caused if the peacocks are allowed to stay, but I think the view will be that the birds must go. This is not a new problem. Residents have been complaining about the peacocks for years. Visitors may like the birds, but if we are not careful there is a danger in having greater regard for the needs of tourists than for the people who actually live here."



One of the wild ones: the peacocks are accused of destroying flower beds and pecking holes in cottage roofs

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Hoots in the Lords at call for hit squad of eagle owls

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE recent appearance of a rare eagle owl on the roof of St Paul's Cathedral prompted calls for an encore, and some hoots of laughter, in the House of Lords yesterday.

The former Conservative Scottish Secretary, Lord Campbell of Croy, urged that more owls should be set to work on getting rid of pigeons and grey squirrels. Lord Campbell suggested that ministers should "encourage experiments" in selected areas and said that the St Paul's owl had done "a very good job in killing hordes of pigeons".

This, he added, was despite the fact that the owl, which has since died of a bacterial infection, was an "alien and an escaped prisoner". He said there would be no risk to red squirrels, a threatened and protected species, as they did not live in the same areas as greys. "So it would not matter if the owl were colour blind," he added cheerily. He saw a further advantage in that he had heard that eagle owls attacked small dogs. That would discourage dog ownership in the selected areas and help to keep pavements clean.

Before his imagination took further flight, Baroness Hayman, a junior Environment Minister, told him: "Encouraging the use of non-native species for vermin control would be inappropriate because of the risk of escape into the wider environment." She added that the last confirmed sighting of a wild



The eagle owl

eagle owl, "known as the rottweiler of the avian world", in Britain had been in 1883 in Argyll. Lord Gainford, a Conservative, said that the owl's return to that area could help to get rid of hooded crows.

The minister said that using birds of prey to scare pigeons in some urban areas was allowed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, but it was hard to stop them eating red squirrels, domestic pets, racing pigeons and grouse.

Lady Hayman then said that the Government was backing research into making grey squirrels sterile by vaccinating their food. Baroness Gardner of Parkes complained about squirrels eating apricots from a tree in her garden in central London. Lady Hayman suggested that she consult the two men from Newton Abbot, Devon, who had reportedly scared off squirrels by hooting at night, each believing that the other was an owl. A spokesman for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday that all raptors were themselves under threat and pointed out that programmes to reintroduce species such as the eagle owl were "not a simple business". A spokesman said: "It requires years of patient work and dedicated application. Sometimes the casual introduction of predators has had uncontrollable and devastating consequences that were quite unforeseen."

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Parents who go ga-ga are doing junior a favour

Baby talk makes sense in any language, say the scientists who listened with mother. Nigel Hawkes reports

THE urge that leads otherwise sensible people to talk apparent gibberish to babies was given an intellectual explanation yesterday. New parents who suddenly find themselves going ga-ga are in fact emphasising vowel sounds instinctively, to provide vital instructions about the building blocks of language.

Research by an international team found that the exaggerated, draw-out form of speech called "parentese" follows the same rules in English, Russian and Swedish.

It is not simply babble or affectionate endearments, but near-normal language, spoken slowly in sing-song style, with key sounds stretched out to make

comprehension easier. Hello becomes he-loo, with a rising intonation at the end. Sometimes syllables are repeated for emphasis ("doggie-woggie") or words enriched by extra vowel sounds ("bas-lamb"). By the age of 20 weeks, the baby's own babbling contains the same vowel sounds.

The team from America, Sweden and Russia was led by the American neuroscientist Dr Patricia Kuhl of the University of Washington in Seattle. Their results, published in *Science*, show that baby talk is characterised by over-articulation that exaggerates

sounds contained within words. Dr Kuhl says: "In normal, everyday speech, adults generally race along at a very fast pace. But we know it is easier to understand speakers when they stretch out sounds."

"That's why we tend to speak more slowly and carefully when we talk to strangers. We also do this unconsciously with babies, giving them an improved verbal signal they can capitalise on."

When women across three different cultures, speaking three different languages, show the same pattern when speaking to

their infants, biology is telling us something about its necessity and value to their babies," she says.

The study examined mothers, but there was no reason to suppose that fathers behaved any differently — other studies had shown they also use parentese.

Mothers spend more time with babies than fathers, so it made sense to study them. Ten women from each of the three countries were recorded talking to their babies, who were between two and five months old. The mothers were asked to talk normally and include target words containing

three vowel sounds common to all three languages: "ee", "ah" and "oo". The women were later recorded talking to adults.

The recordings were then analysed by spectrograph. The team found that in all three languages, mothers talking to their babies produced exaggerated versions of the vowel sounds, emphasising features that distinguished them from other vowel sounds. This was true of all 30 mothers across the three languages.

The exaggerated sounds allowed the mothers to produce a greater variety of vowel sounds

without overlapping other vowels. Dr Kuhl says, Parentese provides the babies with "essential nuggets" of information about language that their brains quickly absorb. After the babies start to use the same vowel sounds — pitched at a higher level because their vocal tracts are smaller — they become expert in reproducing the special sounds of their own native tongue and lose other skills which are not relevant.

Earlier work by other researchers has shown that Japanese babies can distinguish "i" from "r", but lose the knack because it is

not necessary in Japanese. The Kuhl team, which included researchers from the Early Intervention Institute in St Petersburg and from Stockholm University, conclude: "Language input to infants has culturally universal characteristics designed to promote language learning."

Anybody handed a baby tends to use parentese. Dr Kuhl says: "Carers, younger brothers and sisters, and even college students who were handed a baby have been observed using parentese. Parents don't have to work hard at this. Just by talking and communicating with their infants, they are playing a vital role without being aware of it."

Mother's joy at baby born to make history

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A MOTHER told yesterday of her joy at being able to cuddle the baby who made medical history and survived pioneering surgery for a life-threatening condition.

Vickie Harris cradled her son, Dylan, while he slept in his Winnie the Pooh romper suit as she spoke of her delight at the new medical techniques which had enabled doctors to save him.

Dylan was just three days old when Paul May, a consultant neurosurgeon at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, cut open a flap in his head to relieve life-threatening pressure from a blood clot developing between his brain and skull.

Dylan's diagnosis, made at 30 weeks while in the womb, was the earliest made for the condition. He now has every chance of growing up to lead a normal life.

Mrs Harris, 28, a chef from Claughton, near Birkenhead, who lost her first child in a miscarriage 20 months ago, said: "We did not care if he was brain-damaged, paralysed down one side. We just wanted him to live so much."

"When I first saw him after the operation, he was in an incubator and I couldn't hold him. I was able to put my hand in and touch him. It was



A scan of Dylan in the womb, which showed up the blood clot in the skull which could have killed him

a brilliant feeling. I think he is a miracle, a little fighter. He has just never given up on life all the way through. There were some days when we were ready to give up but he would never let us."

Her husband, David, 29, added: "We were told by Mr May that he might not come through the operation. We had to worry about. We were made up when he did. It was a miracle."

Dylan, now six weeks old and weighing 6lb 14oz, is fit and well, feeding and sleeping normally, and has passed his first hearing and mobility tests. Ross Welch, consultant obstetrician at Arrowe Park Hospital, Upton, Birkenhead, is guarded about the baby's future but the early signs are

good in a condition that once led to an early death or left the victim hopelessly disabled.

Dylan's condition was spotted when a routine ultrasound scan showed the signs of a blood clot so rare that there have been only a handful of cases, mostly in the South Pacific region. "We were devastated," said Mrs Harris.

"I first thought, 'Why me? Why is He picking on me, especially after the last pregnancy?' The surgeons were totally honest with us and warned us he could be paralysed. At 30 weeks I had felt his heart beat. So long as he was alive."

Mr Harris said that the couple could have coped with any disability; all that mattered was that their child

is a normal baby."



David and Vickie Harris hug their baby, Dylan. Pioneering surgery saved him

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£2,000.01+ 1.28 16.4*** 16.8***

Preferential rate for first six months 1.28 16.4 16.8

*Typical APR for purchases, based on a limit of £1,000.

**Typical APR for purchases, based on a limit of £2,500.

***Typical APR for purchases, based on a limit of £5,000.

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| Investment Account | Annual Option | Monthly Option | Instant Savings Account | Annual Option | Monthly Option |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Gross % | Net % | Gross % | Gross % | Net % | Gross % |
| £10,000+ | 6.40 | 5.12 | 6.22 | 4.98 | 3.36 |
| £5,000+ | 6.00 | 4.80 | 5.84 | 4.67 | 3.08 |
| £25,000+ | 5.95 | 4.53 | 5.51 | 4.41 | 3.27 |
| £100,000+ | 5.25 | 4.20 | 5.13 | 4.10 | 2.68 |
| Below £10,000 | 0.50 | 0.40 | 0.50 | 0.40 | 0.40 |

| 30 Day Savings | Annual Option | Monthly Option | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------|------|
| Gross % | Net % | Gross % | Net % | |
| £25,000+ | 4.25 | 3.97 | 4.17 | 3.34 |
| £10,000+ | 3.95 | 3.16 | 3.88 | 3.10 |
| £ 5,000+ | 3.65 | 2.92 | 3.59 | 2.87 |
| Below £5,000 | 0.50 | 0.40 | 0.50 | 0.40 |

| Instant Gold Savings | Annual Option | Quarterly Option | | |
|----------------------|---------------|------------------|-------|------|
| Gross % | Net % | Gross % | Net % | |
| £50,000+ | 5.55 | 4.44 | 5.44 | 4.25 |
| £25,000+ | 5.30 | 4.24 | 5.20 | 4.16 |
| £10,000+ | 4.90 | 3.92 | 4.81 | 3.85 |
| £ 2,500+ | 4.70 | 3.76 | 4.62 | 3.70 |
| £ 1+ | 0.50 | 0.40 | 0.50 | 0.40 |

| Investment Account | Gross % | Net % |
|--------------------|---------|-------|
| £100,000+ | 6.20 | 4.98 |
| £ 50,000+ | 5.84 | 4.67 |
| £ 25,000+ | 5.51 | 4.41 |
| £ 10,000+ | 5.13 | 4.10 |
| Below £10,000 | 3.35 | 2.68 |

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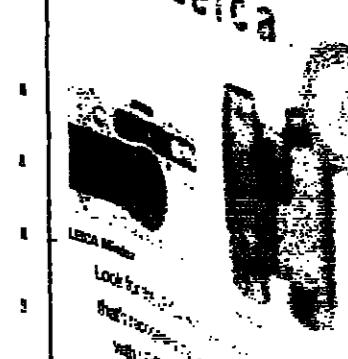
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Lord Simon bound by the law, the City and ministerial rules

Polly Newton and
Sarah Cunningham

on the difficult
switch from business
to government office

THE share dealings of Lord Simon of Highbury are bound by the rules of both the City and Whitehall as well as being subject, like all share trading, to criminal law.

As the Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, the former BP chairman must follow a code of conduct aimed at preventing actual or potential conflicts of interest between his role in Government and his status as a share owner. That bars him from taking part in government decisions that could affect the price of his shares in BP or any other company.

Lord Simon, who gave up his £241,000 salary to become an unpaid member of the Government, was prompted by the Ministerial Code to put his non-BP shareholdings into a blind trust, over which he has no control. It also led to his decision not to sell or deal in any BP shares until January at the earliest. By then, the reasoning goes, he will have been away from the company for long enough to be unaware of its detailed plans and any impact that government action might have on them.

The Permanent Secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry and Sir Robin Butler, head of the Civil Service, agreed that this arrangement conformed to the guidelines. When it is reviewed in January, Lord Simon could opt to put the BP shares over which he already has

control in a blind trust. Alternatively he could ask permission from the Permanent Secretary and Sir Robin to sell some shares.

Lord Simon's predicament has been made more awkward by a strong rise in the BP share price that has increased the value of his shareholding by more than £200,000 since he reached the agreement over what to do with it in May.

A significant proportion of his shares are being held for him by BP in a Jersey-based trust under the company's long-term performance plan, which rewards directors with shares if the company meets certain targets.

He will not be able to deal in any of those until the first tranche is released in May next year. If he then sells them he will have to pay taxes on them at British rates.

Lord Simon has a total of 247,091 shares in BP, at present worth about £2.05 million, including those in

the Permanent Secretariat. He is a member of the European Union's Internal Market Council, which considers all issues relating to the single market. When the UK takes over the presidency of the European Commission next year, he will become chairman of the council.

The DTI spokesman said: "Issues that will relate to BP will not come up at the Internal Market Council. If there is a conflict of interest – if BP is going to be on the agenda – he will not go."

"He is dealing with issues that are not likely to affect BP, but where they do, or where they might, he will

not participate. We could not be clearer."

Lord Simon is also a member of the Foreign Office task force on preparing the UK for the presidency of the European Commission. He chairs the Department of Trade and Industry's competitiveness task force and sits on the Cabinet sub-committee on Europe and on economic affairs.

He is not the first shareholder to face a potential conflict of interest by entering the DTI. When Michael Heseltine was in Government, his shares in Haymarket Publishing were put into a blind trust.

Lord Simon, page 16
Leading article, page 17

BP shareholding set to increase by 40,000

BY ANDREW PIERCE

LORD SIMON stands to receive a further tranche of up to 40,000 BP shares in an offshore trust worth up to £30,000 next year.

The revelation will fuel the political row over the executive share scheme managed by a Jersey-based trust. The final number of shares paid into the trust, which will depend on the company's performance this year, will not be known until the next annual report.

But BP confirmed last night it could be as high as 40,000 shares, which are trading at £8.37 at yesterday's prices. Last year the trust acquired 587,400 of the £2.15 million BP shares it retained when he resigned as chairman.

The controversy has cast doubt over the surprise appointment of Lord Simon to the Government, which was hailed as a coup for Tony Blair, emphasising Labour's new relationship with the business community.

The unpaid ministerial job for Lord Simon was confirmed on May 8 one week after the election. But the Tories, who were seething that such a high-powered figure as the former managing director and chairman of BP could join a Labour Government, were given a chance to exact their revenge two months later.

They pounced on July 8 when it was disclosed that Lord Simon had not disclosed his £2.15 million of BP shares in the Lord's register of inter-

ests. While he was perfectly within his rights not to do so, it was seen as a tactical blunder.

The Tories had to look only as far as the BP annual report to see the words of Lord Simon who declared as chairman of BP he had inside knowledge of the company's trade performance during the first five weeks of the second quarter of the year. Lord Simon decided not to trade the shares and he will review his position on January 1.

But this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the Tories, who finally had a release for their pent-up fury after months of battering from Labour on charges of sleaze. John Redwood, trade and industry spokesman, referred it to the Cabinet Office. The following day Sir Robin Butler, the

Cabinet Secretary, cleared Lord Simon of any breach of ministerial rules.

But the difficulties deepened for Lord Simon when The Times disclosed on July 12 that he had acquired almost £1 million of his holding through an offshore trust fund. By buying and acquiring shares through the Jersey trust in 1996 BP will potentially offset capital gains tax if the shares have risen in value when they pass to him at the end of the executive reward scheme.

On July 15 it emerged that Lord Simon, whose brief excludes matters which relate to BP, had answered written questions in the House of Lords on the chemical industry the previous month. The Tories revealed on July 18 that Margaret Beckett, Permanent Secretary of the Board of Trade, had written to Mr Redwood on July 5 to confirm that Lord Simon had put his non-BP investments in a blind trust. But Mrs Beckett was misinformed. The trust was not yet in place when she wrote the letter.

The DTI confirmed on July 19 that Lord Simon had signed a memorandum approving a European action plan which included gas liberalisation and a common tax regime for energy production. The Tories argued that both subjects impinged on BP.

There was further embarrassment at the weekend when it was shown that the value of the holding had risen by more than £225,000.

The Tories are ignoring the main concern

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Goodbye Cabinet government. Welcome the Blair presidency. The Ministerial Code – the new and expanded version of Questions of Procedure for Ministers – is the most revolutionary publication produced by the Government since the election. It sets out in a formal code of conduct to be obeyed by all ministers, the biggest centralisation of power seen in Whitehall in peacetime.

All the familiar textbooks about the Cabinet system will have to be rewritten. The idea that heads of department have an independent standing has been torn up. The Ministerial Code is a remarkably frank document. The section on "Ministers and the Presentation of Policy" has been totally rewritten. In the previous version, there is merely a reference to the organisation of a press conference. Now, this has been supplemented by a section on co-ordination of government policy.

This states bluntly that "in order to ensure the effective presentation of government policy, all major interviews and media appearances, both print and broadcast, should be agreed with the No 10 Press Office before any commitments are entered into. The policy content of all major speeches, press releases, and new policy initiatives should be cleared in good time with the No 10 Private Office; the timing and form of announcements should be cleared with the No 10 Press Office. Each department should keep a record of media contacts by both ministers and officials."

Co-ordination of government strategy and its implementation is desirable, indeed overdue – fully justifying Peter Mandelson's ministerial role, as well as his personal role as prime ministerial confidant. Similarly, co-ordinating announcements via the Downing Street Press Office to prevent clashes is sensible but this paragraph borders on obsessive and unacceptable, centralised control. Either a Prime Minister trusts those whom he appoints to min-

isterial office, or he does not.

Downing Street officials were last night unapologetic about the change. "It is the strategic and message discipline we operated in Opposition as translated to Government." But Government is different from Opposition, both constitutionally and politically. So much for Cabinet ministers being independent heads of departments with their own responsibilities. Now they have to check in with Downing Street if they want to talk to the press, and they have to put on record even having a quiet drink with a journalist.

Moreover, such centralisation will, in practice, be impossible to sustain. If Government is to work, ministers have to be allowed to get on with their allotted responsibilities without all the time having to check in with Downing Street. No Prime Minister's Office can, or should, micro-manage the activities of nearly one hundred ministers. The new code reinforces the centralised practice of the new Government, though this is combined with Tony Blair's personal preference for focusing on a few important issues. There is often little collective discussion by the Cabinet, even of major political matters.

These questions are far more important than the current obsessive interest in the shareholdings of Lord Simon of Highbury, the Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe. His defence in The Times today is powerful and convincing. The main result will be to make successful businessmen even more sceptical of politicians. Instead of engaging in the type of populist scandal chasing of which they often accused Labour, the Tories should be concentrating on the constitutional upheaval in Whitehall, and the creation of the Blair presidency.

PETER RIDDELL



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THE TIMES FRIDAY AUGUST 1 1997

HOME NEWS 9

'You injected your lover with death'

Judge sentences Cypriot fisherman who gave Briton Aids to 15 months in jail, reports Michael Theodoulou

A CYPRIOT fisherman who is dying of Aids was jailed for 15 months yesterday for knowingly infecting a British divorcee, Janette Pink, with HIV. Pavlos Georgiou, looked stunned at the severity of the sentence as lawyers had predicted that he would receive a suspended sentence. He had planned a party last night to celebrate the end of his trial.

Georgiou swayed on his feet in the dock as Judge Antonis Liatsos told him that he had not only failed to tell his lover he had Aids but also "avoided all protection, injecting her with death for months on end". He stared in disbelief at the judge as he escaped the maximum two-year sentence only because he had to care for four children, including a son aged four who is infected with the virus, and "because you have only a short time to live".

For the first time since his trial began three months ago, Georgiou, 40, showed emotion as he called out to his twin brother, Petros, while three armed policemen bundled him out of the courtroom in Larnaca. He reached out to embrace his brother and said:



Pink relieved that the court case is over

"Look after my children," Petros Georgiou's mother is caring for them."

The judge had complained that the 50-year-old law introduced to the island by the British to stop the spread of cholera needed stiffer penalties "to protect the public which is at risk from this terrible disease". The judge said: "I would have expected of him, knowing his condition, that he would have taken all the precautions when having sex. His negligence led another person to death."

"Cyprus society must be protected, seeing that so many tourists come to the island."

Georgiou had boasted about his string of romances even while his wife, Martha, who also had Aids, was dying, and he was having a relationship with Mrs Pink, who had left her two teenage children in 1994 to begin a new life in the resort of Ayia Napa after her marriage to an accountant had broken down.

Mrs Pink, who said she did not want to be in Cyprus to see Georgiou sentenced, said yesterday: "This will hopefully make Paul [Pavlos] realise what he has done and stop him from doing it again. He just did not care that he might make me sick or make me die, and he has never shown any remorse. I'm relieved that this is all finally over."

Georgiou's brother said yesterday: "We have no hard feelings towards Janette. We never said any bad things about Janette. My whole family still have good feelings for her but we are surprised this case ever came to court."

He said his brother and Janette "stayed together happily for two years even after she was diagnosed as HIV-positive in October 1994".

In Cyprus there is concern over how the island's only jail, which has no facilities to deal with Aids patients, will cope with Georgiou. Legal authorities say he is likely to serve no more than eight months, but he might have to be kept in virtual solitary confinement during that time. He is considering appeal.

Evi Raphadakis, a local Aids specialist who treated Georgiou and Mrs Pink, said: "Our

prison doesn't have any medical facilities and at the moment he's under therapy that requires meals at specific times and regular blood tests. I fear he could end up in solitary confinement. The only way they can deal with infectious diseases in the prison is with two rooms that are effectively isolation rooms."

Lefcos Clerides, a former president of the Cyprus Bar Association, said that the jail sentence imposed on Georgiou was "stiff in view of his health condition".

Yannis Demetriadis, the doctor in charge of the island's only Aids clinic, who is also looking after Georgiou, said that his patient's imprisonment will not be good. It may affect him psychologically and have an adverse effect on his general condition."

Evi Raphadakis, a local Aids specialist who treated Georgiou and Mrs Pink, said: "Our



Pavlos Georgiou, right, leaving court with his lawyer, Tassos Economou, and twin Petros. He asked his brother to care for his children

Charities fear prosecutions would undo years of health education

BY DANIEL McGRORY

AIDS charities criticised the decision to jail Pavlos Georgiou and said they did not want British courts to adopt similar punishments. Janet Pink, backed by her local Tory MP, Sir Teddy Taylor, has urged a change in the law to make similar prosecutions possible.

Derek Bodell, director of the National AIDS Trust, said: "What purpose does this sentence serve? In the end Georgiou is being punished for not disclosing his HIV status. People who are going through the trauma of diag-

nosis and developing Aids are often concerned that people will not love them if they tell them about their illness.

"What Georgiou is guilty of is falling into that misery we have created as a society. Yes, he has behaved badly, but we are trying to introduce laws into what is very a complex set of human relationships."

Mr Bodell added: "It is very dangerous if we try to introduce similar laws to those in Cyprus. People will feel they cannot disclose their HIV status or will not even want to know their status because ignorance will be

bliss. All the work we have done to bring Aids and HIV out into the open will be

wanted to use this case as a deterrent to others. However, it will also deter people from seeking testing for HIV."

This will cause more difficulties in fighting the spread of Aids in Cyprus. We need to consider the implications carefully and see what lessons there are for us in Britain."

Susie Parsons, chief executive of the London Lighthouse Project, said: "We do not support any attempt to create a specific offence of transmitting HIV. The key issue is to prevent the spread of HIV and Aids and that won't happen by criminalising it."

Solicitors agree property shop deal

BY FRANCES GIBB

ONE-STOP property shops offering a package of estate agency, conveyancing and financial services could be in business by the end of this year.

More than 100 solicitors have signed up with a company called, the Solicitors' Property Centre, to offer a franchised network of property shops in England

and Wales. The move comes after a Law Society council decision earlier this month to relax the conveyancing rules and allow solicitors who run estate agencies to act for either the buyer or seller, or give financial advice to the buyer.

Harrow Countywide is already planning to offer conveyancing through its estate agency arm.

Under the scheme agreed yesterday, groups of solicitors

would be able to own and operate a property shop and take a share of its profits. A duty solicitor would be available for conveyancing help, but buyers or sellers would be referred to local participating solicitors for any legal work.

Technology will allow access to lists of available properties, the Land Registry, local authorities and lending institutions, and updates on transactions.

Abduction woman is charged

BY JOANNA BALE

THE housewife accused of eloping to Florida with a boy aged 14 was yesterday charged with abduction and indecent assault.

Tracey Whalin, 33, of Bilborough, Nottingham, appeared before the city's magistrates accused of indecently assaulting a boy under 16 between April 1, 1996, and July 15, 1997. A further charge alleged that she took a child aged 16 from the lawful control of his guardian on July 14. She was granted conditional bail. The maximum sentence for indecent assault is

ten years and for child abduction seven years. Mrs Whalin, who was brought back from Florida on Wednesday, spoke once during the short hearing, to confirm her details.

Mrs Whalin, whose bail application was not opposed by the prosecution, must live in a hostel. The boy cannot be identified for legal reasons.



Bail: Whalin yesterday

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| Annual Interest Rate (%) | Investment | Annual Interest Rate (%) | |
|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|-------|
| £10,000 to £24,999 | 6.40% | £50,000 to £99,999 | 6.25% |
| £25,000 to £49,999 | 6.65% | £100,000 to £249,999 | 6.50% |
| £50,000 to £249,999 | 6.90% | £250,000 or more | 6.75% |
| £250,000 or more | 7.10% | | |

Rates on all other Skipton Accounts remain unchanged.

BUSINESS ACCOUNT

Open Issue. The following rates of interest will apply on Business Accounts from Friday 1st August 1997.

Interest rates are subject to change.

For further information please call 01282 777111.

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Britain moves higher in bribery league

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

BRITAIN is seen as more corrupt than seven other European Union countries, including Germany, according to an authoritative annual league table released yesterday by the Berlin-based Transparency International group.

The rankings, analysing business managers' responses to corruption round the world, often shake up countries at the bottom end of the table. Anger over Pakistan's rating as second worst in the world contributed to the overthrow of

the Government of Benazir Bhutto, Nigeria which this year, as in previous years, is seen as the most corrupt of 52 surveyed countries, has been particularly loud in condemning the "poll of polls".

Transparency International is a private group, set up in 1993 to combat corruption, and bases its information on seven international surveys of business people, political analysts and the public.

The cleanest countries this year were Denmark, Finland and Sweden, which toppled New Zealand from the top position. Britain came relatively low, in 14th position, its

image apparently dented by stories of sleaze. Significantly, it was overtaken by Germany, although the Germans still give broad latitude to companies which hand out bribes to foreign contractors.

Germany has been under pressure, especially from the United States, to plug legal loopholes which allow German businessmen to write off bribes abroad against tax. Yet both Britain, and even the United States, which has strict legal barriers against international bribery, lag behind the Germans. In part, this is probably because of the nature of the survey, which does

not track such areas as company-to-company bribery.

The most corrupt countries this year are regarded as Nigeria, followed by Bolivia, Colombia and Russia. Pakistan has improved its position, earning only one out of ten for honesty last year but 2.53 in 1997. The chairman of Transparency International, Peter Eigen, issued a warning against focusing on Third World corruption.

"Corruption is perceived to be greatest there, but I urge the public to recognise that a large share of the corruption is the explicit product of multinational corporations, headquar-

tered in leading industrialised countries, using massive bribery and kickbacks to buy contracts in the developing world and the countries in transition." The Third World, in other words, would be less corrupt if developing states stopped offering bribes.

Indeed, the most revealing standings are buried deep in the table. Belgium, for example, is now regarded as more corrupt than Mediterranean nations such as Portugal, Spain and Greece. The Italians are seen as the most corrupt of the EU states in the survey, but the country has improved its score from last

year, advancing from 3.42 out of 10 to 5.03.

"Every day that the poor scores in the Corruption Perception Index are not being dealt with means more impoverishment, less education and less healthcare," said Dr Eigen. Money was diverted from development into overpriced contracts.

A study by Harvard associate professor Shang-Jin Wei found that a rise in corruption levels had the same effect on foreign investments as raising the marginal tax rate by more than 20 per cent. Awareness is a first step to fighting or reducing corruption," he said.

BEST AND WORST FOR CORRUPTION

CLEANEST COUNTRIES

MOST CORRUPT

| | | (Marks out of ten) | |
|-------------------|------|----------------------|------|
| 1 Denmark | 9.94 | 1 Nigeria | 1.76 |
| 2 Finland | 9.48 | 2 Bolivia | 2.05 |
| 3 Sweden | 9.35 | 3 Colombia | 2.23 |
| 4 New Zealand | 9.23 | 4 Russia | 2.27 |
| 5 Canada | 9.10 | 5 Pakistan | 2.53 |
| 6 The Netherlands | 9.03 | 6 Mexico | 2.66 |
| 7 Norway | 8.92 | 7 Indonesia | 2.72 |
| 8 Australia | 8.86 | 8 India | 2.75 |
| 9 Singapore | 8.66 | 9 Venezuela | 2.77 |
| 10 Luxembourg | 8.61 | 10 Vietnam | 2.79 |
| 11 Switzerland | 8.61 | 11 Argentina | 2.81 |
| 12 Ireland | 8.28 | 12 China | 2.88 |
| 13 Germany | 8.23 | 13 Philippines | 3.05 |
| 14 Britain | 8.22 | 14 Thailand | 3.06 |

Source: Transparency International

Ancestor worship cuts the cost of Pacific paradise

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ONE of the most celebrated paradise islands in the South Pacific, complete with 25 miles of beach and its own airstrip, will be bought at a knockdown price by the Government of French Polynesia after a long-running dispute over land rights.

Tupai atoll, a 2,500-acre ring of coral in the Tahiti archipelago, once used as a private holiday preserve by the likes of Brigitte Bardot and the Duke and Duchess of Kent, will be sold for just Fr34 million (£3.4 million), or roughly a fifth of the original asking starting price.

Maurice Lejeune, a French lawyer and millionaire who has owned the island for 30 years, was forced to sell by his main creditor, the Bank of Polynesia, when his business empire collapsed. The asking price dropped dramatically after several thousand Polynesian inhabitants from nearby

Bora Bora and Tahaa islands claimed that the atoll had not been legally purchased from their ancestors.

A Polynesian court will rule on the validity of those land claims in October. This week Polynesia's Cabinet agreed a plan to buy the island, but the decision must now be ratified by the Polynesian Assembly.

The Government intends to build a hotel complex on part of the island and turn much of the rest into a nature reserve for the endangered species that flourish there.

In 1990 a group of Japanese investors attempted to buy the island for an estimated £35 million to build a hotel-casino, but that plan also fell through when protesters argued that their ancestral land rights were being violated.

The island contains the ruins of several temples and plays an important role in the ancient Polynesian religion.

The Government's purchase of the island may turn out to be an even better bargain than it appears. According to local legend, a crew of Chilean pirates buried a fabulous hoard of looted Peruvian treasure somewhere on Tupai in 1822, and were then all killed without revealing its location. Numerous adventurers have tried, and so far failed, to find the buried treasure.



A young Brigitte Bardot on honeymoon in 1966 with Gunther Sachs, her third husband, strolls along the beach of Tupai atoll

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Writing. You write in the language you're learning. You can do this in a natural way, as if you were writing in your mother tongue.

Memory. You learn the language by memory. You can do this in a natural way, as if you were learning your mother tongue.

Practise. You practise the language in a natural way, as if you were practising your mother tongue.

Test. You test yourself in a natural way, as if you were testing your mother tongue.

Play. You play games in the language you're learning. You can do this in a natural way, as if you were playing games in your mother tongue.

Music. You listen to music in the language you're learning. You can do this in a natural way, as if you were listening to music in your mother tongue.

Art. You draw pictures in the language you're learning. You can do this in a natural way, as if you were drawing pictures in your mother tongue.

Memory Games. You play memory games in the language you're learning. You can do this in a natural way, as if you were playing memory games in your mother tongue.

Memory Puzzles. You solve memory puzzles in the language you're learning. You can do this in a natural way, as if you were solving memory puzzles in your mother tongue.

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Memory Qu

Israelis swoop on suspected Islamic militants

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI security forces yesterday raided areas of the West Bank under their control to arrest suspected Islamic extremists after the suicide bombings in Jerusalem's market which left 15 people dead.

Soldiers and police arrested dozens of Palestinians, including the relatives of the two men thought to have been the bombers.

The military wing of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, has claimed responsibility for the attack. The men, both in their twenties, came from a village near Hebron, on the West Bank.

They had disappeared more than a year ago after being put on Israel's wanted list of suspected terrorists.

As well as arresting Hamas members, Israel has cut funding to the Palestinian Authority and imposed an indefinite closure on the West Bank and town of Nablus.

The decision was announced as Israelis began burying the dead. Hospitals reported that 58 injured people remained in their care.

Palestinian officials described Israel's response as inflammatory. The officials claimed they had already begun their own operation against Muslim militants in the Gaza Strip and gave a warning to Israel against entering Palestinian self-rule areas to arrest suspects.

David Bar-Ilan, an adviser to Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, defended the stand taken by the Cabinet. He said Israel deserved the right to take action because the Palestinian Authority was not doing the job itself. Mr Bar-Ilan cited the 1976 Entebbe raid, when Israel rescued hostages held by hijackers in Uganda, as a precedent. "The fight against terrorism is universal and the

Americans have decided that they will not accept any sovereignty when pursuing terrorists that have killed Americans. This is the way things must be done, if the governments in the countries where terrorists operate are not willing to do anything against them.

However, Jibril Rajoub, the Palestinian security chief, said Mr Netanyahu should not expect any mass arrests of

Hamas members by the Palestinian police. His officers would arrest only those genuinely suspected of criminal activity, he said.

He condemned the suicide bombings, but added that the Israeli Government must accept some of the blame because of its support for Jewish settlements and other acts of provocation against the Palestinians.

Mr Netanyahu told Dennis

Ross, the US special envoy, yesterday that Israel had fulfilled its commitments under the peace accords.

□ Washington: Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, returned for emergency meetings in Washington last night, demanding security guarantees from Yasser Arafat as the United States attempted to bring momentum to an otherwise hobbled Middle East peace process (Tom

Rhodes writes). Mrs Albright, who has not visited the Middle East since her appointment, found herself at the centre of criticism over lack of US involvement in a process mainly driven by Washington.

"We must not allow terror to succeed in its aim of ending our hope and our search for peace," she said. "But at the moment the focus of all those committed to peace must be squarely on security."

Relatives of Sami Malka, 44, a victim of Wednesday's bombing, mourn while an ultra-Orthodox Jew says a prayer at the site of the attack

Jerusalem market vendors back at work in shadow of death

By ROSS DUNN

ISRAELI resilience was on display yesterday in the open market in Jerusalem. Less than 24 hours after two suicide bombers killed 13 Israelis in the Mahane Yehuda stall owners resumed trading.

Although the patrons might not have been as numerous as before, many vendors were confident that sales would return to normal.

Still, the anger could not be

contained. One shopkeeper cried: "Where are we, where are we that this could happen?"

Another shouted: "What are the Palestinians doing here? We are the Palestinians, we have lived here for generations. What do they want from us? Let them go to Jordan, to Syria!"

The early reopening of the market was due to the efforts of employees who worked through the night to clear away debris from the

blast. However, not all the work was finished in time. Some shopkeepers could be seen still sorting through the shambles of their establishments, while electricians worked to reconnect power lines.

One vendor said he expected to be operating in about a week. He was receiving government support but questioned whether increased security would prevent more terrorist attacks. "I don't know if it will

help, because you know, they [the Palestinians] look like us," he said.

The security forces obviously felt they could make a difference. Hundreds of police and soldiers were stationed in and around the area, while government officials visited the site to assess the full extent of the damage. The officials walked along pedestrian lanes, crowded with customers and curious onlookers.

Among the visitors was Yaakov

Neeman, the Finance Minister, who said he was there to assess the "humanitarian problems of people who were injured, people who had suffered, businesses which have financial problems, people who have tremendous problems of survival".

He promised: "We will deal with it immediately."

□ Ramallah: The Palestinian Legislative Council yesterday gave Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Au-

thority President, one month to dissolve his Cabinet and appoint a new one after a corruption inquiry.

Legislators said the 88-member council voted 56-1 to urge Mr Arafat to appoint a new Cabinet with "qualified and experienced ministers" by September.

"We hope Arafat will respond to our resolution because the Cabinet must be changed," Ahmed Korai, the Speaker of the council, said. (Reuters)

WORLD SUMMARY

Smuggled migrants marooned

Athens: Hundreds of mainly Kurdish illegal immigrants stranded on a ship that suffered a power failure in the Aegean Sea told Greek authorities yesterday that they paid \$2,000 (£1,234) each to be smuggled from Turkey to Italy.

Greek authorities said the Ukrainian-registered *Sohol* was carrying 303 illegal aliens, including 26 children and 30 babies. The three Ukrainian crew left the ship, apparently to fetch food, but never returned. (Reuters)

Holocaust plea

New York: Alfred Defago, the Swiss Ambassador to America, has written to a federal judge in Brooklyn urging him to throw out a class action lawsuit brought by Jewish organisations to force Swiss banks to surrender assets belonging to Holocaust victims. (Tunku Varadarajan writes). He said the suit would interfere with "voluntary" efforts in Switzerland to account for the funds. Hearings in the case began yesterday.

£2m damages

Hong Kong: Kristian Phillips, 47, an American pianist with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, who suffered damage to his brain and nervous system when he inhaled fumes from Diazinon, a pesticide, at the Academy for Performing Arts was awarded almost £2 million damages and £8 million costs. Viba Geigy (Hong Kong) Limited must pay the biggest share.

Pot cropper

Los Angeles: Todd McCormick, 27, a marijuana millionaire, was jailed pending trial after police found more than 4,000 cannabis plants valued at £12.5 million in a raid on his castle (Giles Whittell writes). It was the biggest marijuana "bust" in the city's history, but activists said the drug was for medical use.

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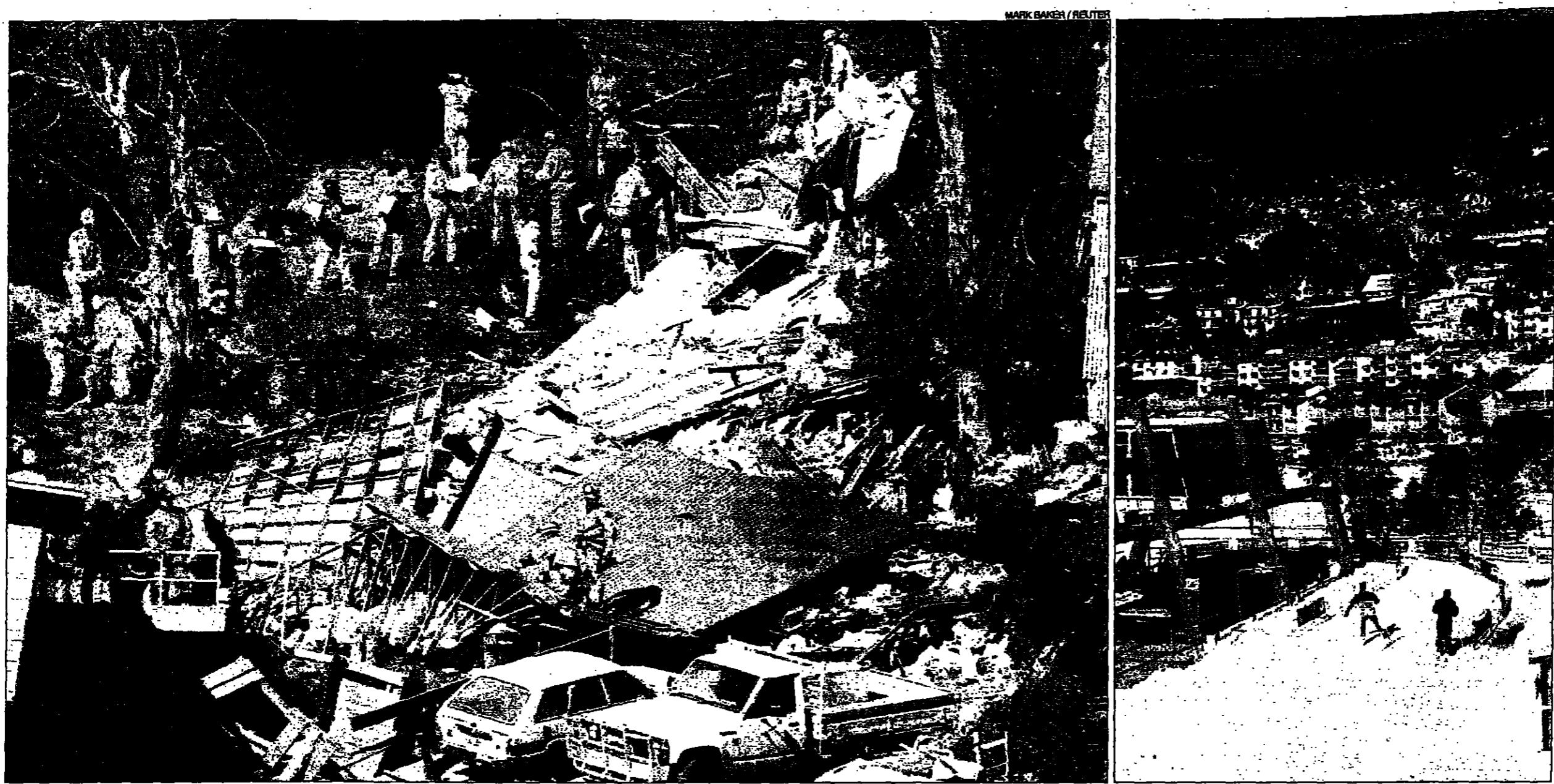
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Rescue workers sift through the remains of two ski lodges destroyed when a landslide hit the Snowy Mountain resort of Thredbo. Heat-seeking equipment has revealed no sign of life

Ski lodge rescue hopes fade

RESCUE workers last night continued to dig with their hands through the freezing ruins of two Australian ski lodges hit by Wednesday's landslide.

Eleven men and eight women were still buried under tonnes of debris at the Thredbo resort, 250 miles southwest of Sydney. Heat-sensitive equipment showed no signs of life. One body has been recovered so far. It is believed to be that of a woman who had been out on a midnight stroll with her husband.

Glenn Milne, an Australian television journalist holidaying at Thredbo, was sleeping in his lodge when the slide hit. "It struck like a tornado

Fears of triggering further landslides are hampering rescue work at the Thredbo resort where 19 people are still missing, writes Rachel Bridge in Sydney

hitting the building. We were a bit over a metre and a half away. You virtually stepped off the steps at the side of our lodge on to the rubble," he said.

Mr Milne said cries were heard beneath the debris. "We could hear three voices. We tried to form a human chain and pull the rubble out, but as we did the cars teetering on the edge of the concrete piers

were in danger of coming down on top of us."

Rescuers worked through the night in sub-zero temperatures under floodlights, delicately prising away rubble under the threat of further slides. Emergency teams were forced to wait 12 hours before they were allowed into the collapsed area.

Bruce Johnston, a police superintendent, said the

efforts were hampered by fears of further collapse. "It's like a pack of cards. If we move something, we have to be quite sure that something else isn't going to fall."

He added: "There are no signs of life at all, but we are hopeful. One has to be honest, the hope is diminishing."

He said the exercise, involving more than 200 rescuers working in 12-hour shifts, would take at least two days of "methodical work".

Ron Stiebel, a regular Thredbo skier, was undressing for bed and looking out of his window as the landslide ripped past. "It was just like someone was emptying a giant vacuum-cleaner bag," he

said. "It sounded like it was a jet fighter taking off, or an express train going past."

John Bouropoulos, another witness, said: "I heard this big wind howling that lasted for a few seconds, then I saw the windows shake and then there was silence. Another couple of metres and we would have been history."

The landslide swept through the Carinya lodge, where one person was believed to be sleeping, and downhill onto the Bimbadeen lodge, where 18 staff members were staying. Many of the resort employees were Americans. Among the victims are believed to be an American-born couple who are ski

instructors and the promotions manager of the resort.

Kerry Muller, a youth hostel manager who was among the first at the scene, said three of her best friends were inside one of the buried lodges, including the American ski instructor.

The landslide occurred just before midnight at a time when Thredbo, at an altitude of 4,494ft, was packed with thousands of Australian and foreign visitors. The resort sits on a ridge facing the snow-covered mountain range of the Kosciuszko National Park. Australia's ski season runs from June to October, but has started slowly this year as little snow has fallen.

SCIENTISTS have blamed nature, not man's interference, for the landslide in Thredbo (Rachel Bridge writes). Environmentalists had said over-development of the ski resort might be responsible.

Ian Plimer, a Melbourne University professor, said soil condition and natural subsidence meant the landslide was inevitable. "Steep alpine areas with thin soils and saturated soils are going to move," he said. "They've done it for thousands of years, and they'll continue to do it for thousands more."

Geologists believe an underground spring may have destabilised the mountain-side. Professor Russell Blong, of the Natural Hazards Research Centre, said that water was the most likely cause. "Most landslides are caused by earthquakes or occur after heavy rainfalls. In this case, it is probably the result of subsurface water movement," he said.

The Kosciuszko National Park has been the scene of many landslides. Five years ago several townships in the area were isolated for a week when a mudslide cut off the access roads.

Another landslide in 1978 destroyed a section of the park's main highway.

Nature blamed for landslide

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Quiet American invades Russia

The launch of *Vogue* in Russia is Jonathan Newhouse's latest coup.

Interview by Jason Cowley

As a young student at Yale, Jonathan Newhouse felt divided over his fabulous birthright. The scion of a publishing empire, he knew that he was expected to follow his father and cousins into the family business. But it was the early 1970s and his thoughts were full of rebellion and escape: he wanted to paint (he was reading *Fine Art* at Yale), to travel, to pursue creative interests.

"It was the time of the Vietnam War, there were riots on the streets and many young people were questioning the values of the older generation," he says. "I had very mixed feelings about the family business; it was not something I embraced automatically."

Time moves on: Jonathan Newhouse, 45, is today considered, together with his cousin Steven, as a future leader of Advance Publications, the privately owned Newhouse family enterprise which *Fortune* magazine values at between \$8 billion and \$10 billion. The family's wealth is founded on ownership of more than 20 regional newspapers; several major cable television operations; the Conde Nast magazine group, whose flagship publications include *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*, and the book publishing group Random House. They own, too, arguably the best magazine in the world, *The New Yorker*.

The chairman of Advance Publications is the reclusive, driven Si Newhouse, Jonathan's first cousin and eldest son of the late family patriarch Sam Newhouse, who emerged from the crumbling tenements of the immigrant quarter of New York's Lower East Side to galvanise the family's aspirations. Si Newhouse may be, as Jonathan says, in robust health, but he is also approaching 70; he must surely be considering his succession. If so, Jonathan is handily placed: since 1989 he has driven the global expan-

**'It doesn't
suit us
to call
attention
to ourselves'**

sion of Conde Nast International while transforming its profitability.

The emerging economies of the Asian "tiger" countries and those in the old Eastern bloc are important markets. Flush with new wealth, people in these countries appear dazzled by Western luxury goods and designer labels. Newhouse has cannily responded by launching *Vogue* in Korea and Taiwan, and *GQ* in Japan: yesterday afternoon he announced, in partnership with Russian publishers SK Communications International, his most notable expansion: a Russian edition of *Vogue*.

He is thrilled that what he calls a "symbol of luxury, consumerism and capitalism" should be embraced so enthusiastically in the former Soviet Union. "To think that ten years ago this was a communist country and now *Vogue* is opening there..."

The first Russian editions of Western magazines such as *Playboy*, *Cosmopolitan* and *Elle* were launched almost three years ago — and have prospered. Conde Nast, though, was more cautious. Newhouse says: "As a company, we tend not to be the first into a market because we appeal to the more upmarket elements in it. So we can only go into a market when our readers and advertisers are ready for us. This is the case in Russia."

"We see Russia as a very fertile market for the future. Russians are currently the most aggressive consumers on the planet; they occupy the same place as the Japanese in the Eighties and the Arabs in the Seventies. In luxury shops all over the world, the biggest and best customers are now Russian. If you walk into a restaurant in Russia you see women dressed from head to toe in *Chanel* and *Versace*. You don't see this in London or New York."

The vulgarity and lawlessness of contemporary Russia, with its mafia gangs and prostitutes, its *nouveau riche*-

es flaunting their *Versace* medallions and *Chanel* "double Cs", is of no concern to Newhouse. "Look, we are from Conde Nast, not Interpol," he says, laughing. "Whether a woman is a princess or a prostitute she still has to dress herself; if she has wealth and taste, or aspires to those things, the magazine she is going to turn to first is *Vogue*. Whether the money is being made dishonestly is not our concern."

In America, the Newhouses

exert a compelling fascination. What is perceived as their secretiveness and inscrutability, their dogged loyalty to one another, frustrates as much as it intrigues. The family abjures publicity. Sam Newhouse's maxim that "nothing matters more than the family" is a guiding principle.

Jonathan Newhouse says:

"Sure, we value our privacy as a family. We were all taught to conduct ourselves with discretion. It doesn't suit us to call attention to ourselves. As Jews

from New York owning newspapers throughout the country, we thought it wise to keep a low profile."

Unlike great newspaper proprietors such as Randolph Hearst, they had no wider political ambitions. "The typical newspaper proprietor in the early part of the century used newspapers for political and personal power. Our goal in owning newspapers was to maintain the quality and health of the papers themselves. We aren't Howard Hughes types, we aren't being obsessive — we just don't want to call attention to ourselves."

Did being Jewish in America have anything to do with their reticence? "It wasn't and has never been a problem, but maybe there was a time when it could have been."

The journey of the Newhouse family, in just two generations, from the teeming ghettos to one of the largest privately held fortunes in the US, is a metaphor for modern America. He agrees that "our journey typifies the American dream of arriving with nothing and building a success".

His grandfather, Meier Neuhaus, certainly had nothing when he arrived in New York from Russia, having fled Tsarist pogroms. The son of a

rabbi, he was debilitated by poverty and scraped a living by making braces. "My grandfather, whom I never knew, was a poor man and in bad health. My uncle [Sam] was the success at business. He built the business, originally by borrowing and scraping money together to buy his first newspaper, *The Staten Island Advance*, from which Advance Publications derives its name, and then slowly expanding it."

Like his father, Norman, Jonathan Newhouse began his career in the production department of one of the family newspapers, learning how to set hot type. He progressed quickly, working in jobs of increasing responsibility before Si Newhouse moved him into magazines. In 1989, he was appointed chief executive of Condé Nast International and moved to Paris.

He enjoyed the city and his work, but was locked into a deteriorating marriage (his first wife, Deborah, now lives in New York with their two young daughters, Emily and Nora).

One afternoon, Newhouse visited a clairvoyant who told him that he would soon meet the love of his life and move to

a "land surrounded by water". Shortly afterwards, he renewed acquaintance with Ronnie Cooke, who was to become his second wife.

They had first met while he was publisher and she was creative director of *Details* magazine. "I was married when we first met, so our relationship was purely professional. We kept in touch over the years and I even tried to hire her a couple of times."

After his divorce, they met again in Paris. "Things worked out and we decided, in the end, to move to London."

They married in Richmond register office in June 1995. Ronnie, though, has spent most of the past year commuting by Concorde between London and New York, where she works as creative director of Calvin Klein. He feels her absence keenly. As a result, she has not renewed her contract with Calvin Klein and is returning permanently to London, working on freelance assignments. Newhouse says: "We have been apart a little too much recently. Let me put it this way, I kissed Versace more recently than I kissed my wife."

He describes Ronnie as the love of his life. "She is a brilliant, talented, vibrant, wonderful person; we have a very passionate relationship."

His greatest pain remains his separation from his children. "I talk to them every day and write to them. I see them on holidays and I go back once a month, sometimes twice, but this isn't nearly enough. It's terribly painful to be separated from them."

He pauses, shifts uneasily in his chair. "What astounds me about the British," he continues, "is how they can send their children away to school. To me, children are the most precious things in the world."

There is nothing imperious about Jonathan Newhouse. His conversation is engagingly colloquial, free from the clichés and jargon of so much contemporary business discourse. A small, shman, he is disarmingly polite.

He no longer feels damned by the wealth and expectation of the family legacy. "One lives one's life as a person you get up, do your work and take care of your family. Wealth brings ease, freedom and protection, but, in itself, it's not what's satisfying or important in life." So what is? "My family and my work."

Or, to echo Sam Newhouse: "The ties that matter are the ties to each other."



Jonathan Newhouse no longer feels daunted by the family fortune. "Wealth brings ease, freedom and protection, but, in itself, it's not what's satisfying or important in life"

THE SUNDAY TIMES

STYLE

STANLEY KUBRICK
Says he's learned the
true value of a good
film director

TONY CHERKOV
Lured by the idea of
new life, the 40-year-old
actor has moved to
London

GOTHIC GUINNESS

I don't mind being dubbed aristocratic. I think it's quite funny — and it's helped me a lot... — JASMINE GUINNESS, THE LATEST ARISTO-MODEL

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Sushi — the kebab of the 1990s?

There is a moment at the end of *Withnail and I* when the drug dealer announces that the spirit of the Sixties is coming to an end because hippy wigs are on sale at Woolworth.

I know what he means. It is difficult not to feel the same way about sushi.

It is not so much that Japan's appetite for the stuff is supposed to be in danger of causing the "commercial" extinction of the southern bluefin tuna; rather the sight of boxes of sushi in Pret a Manger.

That this admirable chain of sandwich bars now flogs sushi, along with cappuccino and an ersatz Soho atmosphere, means that, according to Peter York, the style guru, the trend for lumps of congealed rice topped with cold fish "has had as far as fashionable people are concerned".

Sushi has become the kebab of the 1990s. It had to happen, but there will be those who mourn its passing into the mainstream. There was something wonderfully naive about the way that sushi was embraced by the self-appointed fashionable elite of Britain.

The Eighties was a time when Japan enjoyed cultural and economic hegemony worldwide. Readers of the then nascent style press would drool over technoporn — loving intimate pictures of the latest miniature cameras, microscopic solar-powered radio or sleek hi-fi system. Many people even got out of bed and slept on the floor — remember futons?

"People were craven about aspects of Japanese culture," York says. "Sushi suited people who liked to have obscure, nasty, raw food. Nobody in their right mind likes raw food. I went there [Japan]. I had it. It was nasty."

But back in those days York was in a minority. During the early Eighties Andrea Riva, proprietor of the famed eponymous Barnes restaurant, went into business with Lord Lichfield, the Hon Henry Smith and Eddie Lim and opened a restaurant called Pier 31 on Cheyne Walk. "It was quite nouvelle cuisine-ish,"

The cold fish has reached our high street, mourns Nick Foulkes



Once fashionable, now mainstream

Riva says, "but as starters we had sushi and sashimi: seabass, salmon and tuna. People were going more for that than the other things."

Not one to miss a burgeoning culinary trend, Riva installed a sushi bar and shipped in a sushi chef. "He came from a dynasty of sushi chefs. The way they cut the fish goes from father to son, it is more a ritual than a way of preparing food," Riva says.

"We used to do sushi boats. We served it in a little boat and the customers must have felt as if we had come all the way from Japan because it took the guy so long to cut the sushi up."

Nevertheless, sushi slipped into the Wall Street lifestyle easily enough. A bottle or two of Cristal was ordered to start with, then some overpriced and

overcooked Oz chardonnay with the sushi. After which it was a bottle of port or a line or two of coke... leaving just enough time to wrap the Porsche around a lampost before getting up at Sam to go to the gym before closing that deal.

However, not all sushi's new devotees quite knew how to face this deficiency. There were tales of customers who ate everything including the little green plastic leaves on which the sushi was presented — a little chewy perhaps, but palatable once smothered in wasabi, soy sauce and shredded ginger.

The key to sushi's success was that it had been endorsed by America.

"It has those Californian overtones that it is good for you and the heart," York says. Riva sees the popularity of sushi as analogous with the rise of the cooking of his native Northern Italy. "Like everything that becomes popular, sushi did not come directly to England from Japan and Northern Italian food did not come directly from Italy. They came via America. Sushi and polenta have existed for centuries but to be accepted in England they needed to be baptised in New York or Los Angeles."

These days Pier 31 is a car showroom and sushi is being eaten by secretaries who want a bit of a change from their Philadelphia cheese sandwiches. There is nothing wrong with this, it is just that sushi is not what it used to be.

"What is interesting is to try to define what the late 1990s riposte to cold fish and rice might be. Given the excruciating trendiness of Momo, just off Regent Street, might not the food of North Africa become the hip thing? Any chef worthy of his own TV slot is bound to be brushing up on his couscous. And, as regards cultural hegemony, I have seen a few pieces about houses in North Africa in definitive opinion-forming mags."

If you want to get on the couscous trail better hurry — Marks & Spencer does an extremely tasty, ready-made couscous with vegetables.

Don't scare tycoons away from politics

David Simon defends himself as a minister and a businessman

When the Prime Minister asked me to enter the Government as Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe I had to think twice. You do not resign the chairmanship of a great company lightly. I was as aware of the problems as of the challenges. I thought that my appointment might attract some criticism in the Labour Party despite efforts by the leadership to transform the party's relations with the business community. But three months on I am sure I made the right decision, and astonished that resulting criticism has come not from the less "new" members of new Labour, but from an apparent champion of the free market, John Redwood.

I am a businessman, not a politician. When I took on my role I made it clear that I did not intend to enter the world of party politics, with its attendant media circus. I prefer my work to be judged by results. I do not intend for that to change now, but I do recognise that charges continue to be made about my actions. While the Opposition has been careful to stop short of alleging impropriety, three central charges have been put over the last weeks. I think it is right that I answer each of them.

The first charge is that my continuing shareholding in BP is a conflict of interest with my ministerial responsibilities. There is no substance to this charge. It is clearly sensible that ministers should avoid any suggestion that their decisions are based on personal considerations. To ensure this, ministers who hold shares are offered three alternatives on entering the government. To take no part in official business which may constitute a conflict of interest; transfer shares to a trust, the managers of which would take decisions without reference to the minister; or to sell the shares.

My position was complicated by the fact that, as well as being a shareholder in BP, I was the chairman of the company until my appointment. I therefore took the view that it would be inappropriate for that reason alone to be involved in any government decisions directly affecting BP.

In addition I had considerable insider knowledge of BP and I judged that my ability to sell the shares was constrained both by insider dealing legislation and personal judgment as to what constitutes sound governance. The day I entered my new office I took advice from the Permanent Secretary at the department. I was advised to put my non-BP holdings into a blind trust, which is what I have done. This was not appropriate for my BP shares. It was decided that I should keep my BP shares until the situation is reviewed next January, when a further assessment of my access to insider knowledge can be made. Until then none of my BP shares will be traded. In the meantime steps have been taken to ensure that I do not allow any conflict of interest between my BP shareholding and my official business.

The second charge is that



The Andes connection

Afavourite book is like a favourite person. She may not be the best. She may be better than dozens of others you could name and she may be no better than she ought to be.

But you love her. You love her with all her faults. You love her, ready to concede without demur how easily she could be belittled, but confident you will never change your mind.

For me this book is *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*. For those who care to be correct in these things, "Luis" is Spanish, not French, and therefore the "s" is pronounced.

The author, Thornton Wilder, died in 1975. He was an American, born in Wisconsin, who spent part of his early life abroad; his infancy in China. A schoolteacher, airforceman and later a professor at Harvard, Wilder is often described as a Christian humanist. The expression reads too briefly for so warm, open and rather mystical a writer.

After this book, Wilder went on to write further novels and some wonderful plays. *Our Town*, when I saw it produced by the Manchester Youth Theatre recently, reduced me to tears.

Though no more than a chronicle of the unexceptional lives of a family of small-town Protestant Americans, it is written with depth and kindness and intensity — and an economy

which benefits some 350 of the BP staff. It is a long-term scheme which only pays if the company is successful.

Individuals pay tax on shares as soon as they are awarded to them. I have paid full income tax on all the shares held in the trust.

I understand the Opposition and the media have a duty to ensure that the high standards in public life to which this Government is committed are being maintained. But the facts in my case simply do not support their charges and innuendos. Both the spirit and the letter of the rules have been followed in every way.

I have a thick skin and will not be deflected from the challenge of helping Britain to win in Europe. My one regret is that the row generated by the Opposition may make other businessmen wary of becoming involved in government. Indeed, the logical conclusion from some of the arguments employed by what was once the party of business seems to be that all businesses entering government are inevitably subject to conflicts of interest and should be barred. That would be a shame for politics. It would be a shame for Britain.

The third charge is that I will be avoiding tax because some of my shares are held in a Jersey trust. That also is untrue. BP does, perfectly legally, hold shares in a Jersey trust which relate to the long-term performance plan, which benefits some 350 of the BP staff. It is a long-term scheme which only pays if the company is successful.

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Lord Simon of Highbury is Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe.

The second charge is that

Escape route

THE latest issue of the *Church Times*, mouthpiece of the Anglican establishment, tackles for the first time the previously taboo question of how the Prince of Wales might satisfactorily marry Camilla Parker Bowles. A French civil wedding, it concludes, may be the answer.

In a piece over two pages, Brian Brindley, the former secretary of the General Synod who has since become a Roman Catholic, says that nothing the Prince has done to date prejudices his becoming Defender of the Faith. Far more promiscuous men have become



King. There is also no objection to his marrying Camilla. The problem is the possible awkwardness of Camilla being made Queen.

There is no legal provision in Britain, writes Brindley, for a morganatic marriage which enables royals to marry non-royals without conferring any of their titles or status on their children or spouses. So if Charles were to marry Camilla, she would have to become Queen.

Brindley, however, believes he may have found a way for Charles to marry Camilla, be crowned King and yet for Camilla not to become Queen — in effect for them to have a quasi-morganatic marriage without any change in legislation.

The Royal Marriages Act of 1722 says that members of the Royal Family must have the consent of the Sovereign or Parliament to marry. Without either, the marriage and any children will not be recognised.

Brindley cites four precedents in which members of the British Royal Family have married without the proper assent from George IV and Mrs Fetherbert in 1785 to Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson.

Charles, argues Brindley, could take Camilla out of British jurisdiction

Croatia recently found themselves doubling up as his spokesmen. Cook had made a great point on his visit of talking up the importance of a free and independent media in an infant democracy. To show he was serious, he decided to give the only television interview of his trip not to the state media but to a small, struggling yet independent television station.

Unfortunately the station's youthful camera crew were more enthusiastic than competent. When they tried to play back the tape of their long interview with Cook, they found nothing but fuzz. Returning to Cook's end-of-tour press conference, they were too shy to bother the Foreign Secretary for

another interview, so it was left to the men from *The Times* and *The Economist* to explain Cook's plan for Croatia — and reiterate the importance of a free press.

● Following my series on clubs for parliamentary spouses comes reaction news from the all-action Conservative Parliamentary Wives Club, still up and running despite earlier reports. The CPWC has held steady in the water under the command of Sally Neubert, wife of Sir Michael Neubert, the former MP for Romford. Its 180-strong membership consists of wives of current and former MPs, but no husbands. "Tory husbands, unlike their Labour counterparts, do not seem to need a support group," says Lady Neubert.

Over-aggressive paparazzi have sabotaged the attempts of Oasis singer Liam Gallagher to retrieve his lost cat. So eager have they been to keep the singer's address in North London to themselves, they have torn down all the posters which Gallagher pinned near his north London home requesting the cat's safe return. Gallagher has since drafted some more.

Free reeling

REPORTERS travelling with Rob

in Cook, the Foreign Secretary, to

MUTINY is fomenting on the island of Montserrat over the actions of Frank Savage, the British Governor, who failed to deal effectively with the effects of the volcanic eruptions on his patch. With British aid arriving on the volcano-jolt island in agonising dribs, Savage decided to hold a drinks party for foreign aid workers last week at the island's smartest hotel, the Vue Point, which lies in the middle of a danger area.

The mass exodus from the

island, however, meant there was a

Are the old ties fraying?
John Lloyd on our dwindling sense of union

The Cartier tournament, English polo's premier event, was played last weekend at the Guards ground in Windsor. The Westchester Cup, for which American and English teams have competed annually for more than a century, was won for the first time in decades by the home side.

The day was brilliant. Glossy cars were arrayed in lines, with picnickers sipping champagne between Soldiers in dress uniforms directed people to their places. The conversation was happy, the accents Home Counties, the style smart-casual. The Queen came and sat with her consort on the balcony of a little wooden pavilion by the half-way line.

When the teams came on to the field, each man cantered in a long sweep before the Queen, each swinging off his helmet in salutation. A magnificent game followed: the muscled, sweating ponies turning, racing and stopping in response to riders' commands. The players displayed the qualities of the ancient game — a demonstration of manhood and horsemanship. Here was a concentrate of a kind of Englishness.

A few days before, the plan under which power is to be devolved to a Scottish parliament had been revealed. The Scottish political establishment rejoiced. William Hague said it would be kept by a future Tory administration; the Scottish National Party said it would be supported as a gateway to greater freedoms.

In an interview earlier this week, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, told me that he had set in train a process which would revive a Scots political class, whittle down the duties of the Secretary of State for Scotland and stimulate democratic habits and civic engagement. Mr Dewar was careful to stress that it was a settlement which left sovereignty intact in Westminster: the extensive powers to be devolved — referendums permitting — would not, he said, reduce by one scintilla the essence of Westminster rule.

Yet (I thought, as I strolled uncomfortably about the Guards ground) sovereignty in this country was a palimpsest: a layered and subtle concoction in which acquiescence in Westminster government was reasserted through a thousand shared experiences of empire and wars, of mingling of the Scots and English classes through institutions such as the military, public schools, trade unions, political parties.

The layers have long been unravelling. The shared sacrifices and triumphs are fading or discredited, the military a professionalised cadre of high competence but uncertain as to purpose, the trade unions in decline. The ties of class, the habits of command and deference, are being replaced on the side of the Scots by an insistence that an old right to statehood should take at least a quasi-statist form, and on the side of the English by a dawning realisation that some new national self-definition must be attempted.

In brief essays he wrote in the 1950s on English writers, Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa — the Sicilian prince whose solitary full-length work *The Leopard* put him in the forefront of 20th-century European letters — celebrated the English habits (as he saw them) of fairness, scrupulousness, care for substance over form, understatement and pragmatism. He romanticised these to stress his contempt for the decadence, showiness, mendacity and factitiousness (as he saw it) of the Italian aristocracy.

But some Scots used to agree with him about the English. John Buchan's aristocratic men of action were as at home on the grouse moor as the polo field. His proletarians and petits bourgeois, whether Cockney or Glaswegian, earned admiration by their ability to conjure two types of patriotism — the English or Scots with the larger British. His was a world in which the dominant institutions had been cast off from a purely English to an inclusive British form.

Politics now dominates in their stead. The status quo is no longer an option: Scotland cannot be denied a parliament and remain governable. But its creation is — however skilfully Dewar has framed the new settlement — a hazard. The new parliament may make the slippery slope to independence more steep. It may, on the other hand, be a medium through which the Scots soberly conclude that a Union under revised terms remains welcome to them.

The Cartier tournament, great display of manners, wealth and courage as it is, no longer functions as one of the celebrations at the apex of a British Establishment. If it has been privatised and folded into the entertainment industry, a themed occasion with royal knobs on.

If we are to stay together as a nation, we cannot look to such occasions, nor to the Queen or her successor, to express a transcendent ideal any longer. We have to find in political and personal choice, in the discovery of a preference for a space which provides a British solvent for the drear invented nationalisms of the Scots or the English, the Irish or Welsh. Or go our own ways.

John Lloyd is associate editor of the New Statesman.



OBITUARIES

LORD GOOLD

Lord Goold, chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party, 1983-90, died of lung cancer on July 27 aged 63. He was born on May 28, 1934.

Jim Goold devoted much of his life to the Conservative cause in Scotland, during a period when the party's support was draining inexorably away. He enjoyed considerable influence with Margaret Thatcher, who placed great trust in him; but their attempts to convince Scotland of the benefits and merits of her revolution were unsuccessful. The decisive miscalculation of their joint strategy was the introduction of the poll tax in Scotland in time for the general election of 1987.

James Duncan Goold was a scion of the West of Scotland's old mercantile class, Protestant and Unionist, and he remained true to its values all his life. Educated at Glasgow Academy, he qualified as a chartered accountant and practised in New Zealand and Australia before returning to enter the construction industry, becoming managing director of the Glasgow construction company MacTaggart & Michel, and later its chairman.

Although he was active on industry committees, he will be remembered as one of the most significant, if least known, figures in Scottish politics of the 1980s. As an office-holder in his constituency party in East Renfrewshire, he had formed a close bond with Betty Harvie Anderson, who led the internal Unionist opposition to Edward Heath's decision in 1968 to commit the Tories to home rule.

Indeed, Harvie Anderson was one of the more powerful voices that succeeded in persuading Mrs Thatcher, when she became Leader of the Opposition, that home rule was splitting the party in Scotland, and should be dropped. This was duly done — to the embarrassment of some of the party's most prominent Scottish spokesmen — after Mrs Thatcher formed her first administration in 1979.

First as chairman of the CBI in Scotland from 1981-83, and then as chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party from 1983 to 1990, Goold not only enjoyed considerable standing with rank-and-file Tories, but had the ear of Mrs Thatcher. Critics said this was because he told her what she wanted to hear; a more perceptive



analysis was that their prejudices coincided.

The old mercantile Unionists combined a belief in free enterprise with a suspicion of Labour councils and trade unions. They stood out in marked contrast to the party's patrician wing, with whom Mrs Thatcher had little in common and which, after the 1987 general election, she came to despise. Goold also possessed discretion, loyalty, and — unusually for a politician — was singularly free from egoism.

The 1980s were a difficult period for the Scottish party, which as recently as 1985 had commanded more than 50 per cent of the popular vote and more than half the parliamentary seats north of

the border. Traditional industries were disappearing, which was scarcely propitious for the restoration of Tory fortunes, but the most serious problem arose with the poll tax. Under pressure from professional valuers, the Scottish Office failed to postpone the quinquennial rating revaluation. This meant swinging increases in the business rate and uproar among traditional Tory voters in Scotland.

One of the ironies of the whole fiasco was that the tax was levied on the Scots before the English or the Welsh because senior Scottish Tories saw in it their salvation — not, as the more suspicious Scots believed, because Mrs Thatcher had it in for them. In

particular, the poll tax with its theoretically greater accountability appealed to Conservatives such as Goold, who resented what they saw as the profligate use by Labour councils of other people's money.

But it was a political disaster, and the party was duly punished in the election of 1987, when its parliamentary representation was cut from 21 to ten. For Mrs Thatcher the obvious scapegoats were the Scottish Office, of whose civil servants she was suspicious, and the then Secretary of State for Scotland, Malcolm Rifkind.

Goold would have been less than human had he not felt discouraged. About this time he congratulated a friend who had taken on an onerous and controversial post: Goold said that he was delighted to know that he no longer had "the worst job in Scotland".

In 1989 he handed over his honorary position to a new chairman-designate, Michael Forsyth, whose attempt to renovate the party machine provoked much bad feeling internally, and hardly improved the Tories' electoral fortunes.

If Goold hoped for a more peaceful time when, a couple of years later, he took over the chairmanship of the Royal Scottish Orchestra, he was to be disappointed. The orchestra was embroiled in internal strife, and Goold had to take a great deal of public flak. Before he stepped down in 1993, he uncharacteristically gave vent to his private irritation. "It hasn't been much of a job," he said. "You don't get paid a halfpenny for it."

At the beginning of this year he returned from a Caribbean holiday with what he thought was a chest infection; in fact, he had cancer in both lungs. He bore his final illness bravely, with a touch of bitterness that a disease associated with smoking should strike a man who had never smoked in his life. He was unable this summer to fulfil his duties as Lord High Commissioner of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, duties which were carried out instead by Lord Macfarlane.

Goold was knighted in 1983 and became a life peer in 1987. He was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire in 1994. He was active in the leadership of the Boys' Brigade and in many charities.

His wife died in 1992. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.

PROFESSOR GEORGE DICK

George Dick, Professor of Pathology at London University, 1966-73, died on July 3 aged 82. He was born in Glasgow on August 14, 1914.

GEORGE DICK was a great virologist and researcher. When he graduated, the only known human viruses were yellow fever, smallpox and influenza, but over the following fifty years he made fundamental contributions to expanding this branch of knowledge. He had a wide range of research interests, including vaccine development and vaccination policies against, for instance, smallpox, polio and whooping cough, and he continued to work on multiple sclerosis until very recently.

He was the author or editor of several books and of more than 200 scientific publications, and an adviser to the British Government, the World Health Organisation and many other bodies around the world. He was concerned not only with discovery but also with ensuring that public health policies reflected the latest scientific thinking.

George William Auchinleck Dick was educated at the Royal High School in Edinburgh, going on from there to Edinburgh University, where he completed degrees in medicine and science and was awarded the Buchanan medal. He had planned to specialise in obstetrics after supervising a successful breech delivery in a shepherd's cottage. But the Second World War forced him, like many of his generation, to alter his plans.

In 1941 he found himself in what was then Abyssinia and British and Italian Somaliland, with wide-ranging responsibilities for laboratories and laboratory services. He travelled extensively in the region, with a small team and his faithful companion Tabu, a black labrador. In the period

immediately after the war he contributed to some seminal investigations on the vector of tick typhus in Kenya and on the epidemiology of polio in Mauritius.

He continued to work in East Africa for a number of years, seconded by the Colonial Medical Research Service to the Rockefeller Foundation's yellow fever research laboratory in Entebbe, Uganda, where he made some key



contributions to understanding the natural history of the fever and its prevention by immunisation. These were exciting times, often spent working "on safari". Dick had recently married, and he and his wife Brenda embraced the opportunities enthusiastically.

From Uganda, they moved to the United States, where Dick worked at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. This was a very productive period for him, and he made a number of lifelong friends.

After a brief period at the National Institute for Medical Research in Mill Hill, London, 1951-53, Dick devoted twenty years to research, teaching and the development of pathology services. From 1953 to 1965 he built up a new Department of Microbiology at The Queen's University, Belfast. He was subsequently Director of the Bland Sutton Institute at

FAITH JAQUES

Faith Jaques, author and illustrator, died on July 12 aged 73. She was born in Leicester on December 13, 1923.

MENTION Mr Toad or Winnie-the-Pooh to most people and they will think immediately not of the words of Kenneth Grahame or A. A. Milne, but of the illustrations by E. H. Shepard. Faith Jaques recognised the importance of this, and as an illustrator for all her working life she was tenacious in the quest to make agents and publishers acknowledge it and reward more fully the "unashamed accompanist".

As a member of the Society of Authors, she was a leading figure in campaigns to ensure that artists are included alongside authors in royalty agreements, and have continuing rights in their artwork after its use by publishers. When the legislation to establish Public

Lending Right was under discussion, she was again among those who successfully negotiated the inclusion of illustrators within the arrangement designed to compensate authors according to the frequency with which their work is borrowed from public libraries.

Faith Jaques had a comfortable, if restricted, childhood and youth, moving from Wygeston Grammar School to the Leicester College of Art. Her war service was intellectually stimulating. She joined the Wrens, but found herself afoul in the Bodleian Library, helping to realise the strategic potential of its substantial photographic holdings. However, when she resumed her studies in London, at the Central School of Arts and Crafts, she encountered all the routine privations of student life — and subsequently the freelance's lot.

A slim grant of £4 a week ate

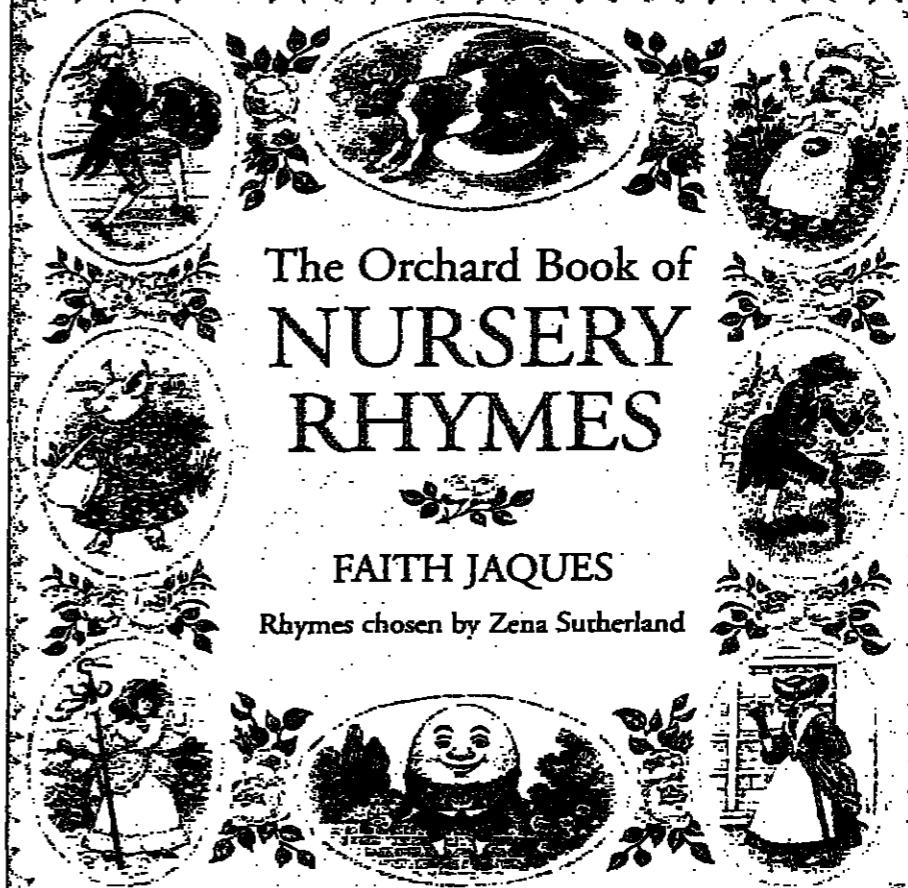
into her £30 Wren's granularity, and only as graduation approached did she begin to exploit the possibilities of drawing for magazines and teaching what she had learnt.

This experience was to be the bedrock of her career. Part-time teaching at Guildford School of Art was followed by 15 years at Hornsey, until the upheavals there in 1968 caused her to quit, and she worked industriously at the many commissions which were bread-and-butter for the freelance graphic artist in the 1950s and 1960s: magazine illustration — especially for *Radio Times* — company brochures, programmes, and menus. She was also commissioned to design commemorative postage stamps, including the Christmas set for 1978.

As a passionate reader from childhood onwards, she had always seen herself as an illustrator, and as the marker for ephemeral work declined, she turned more and more towards book illustration. She had done a variety of jobs for the mass-market publishers Adprint during the 1950s, but her forte was really in the demanding field of fine-drawings, and it was here that her reputation was finally established. In 1967, she was chosen by Roald Dahl to illustrate the English edition of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (first published in New York with pictures by Joseph Schindelman), and that year saw her emergence as one of the more prolific illustrators of contemporary children's books.

Outstanding among her many collaborative works were the pen drawings for Philippa Pearce's *What the Neighbours Did* and the watercolours for Ursula Moray Williams's *The Picnic with the Aunts* (both 1972).

Faith Jaques took a classic



The Orchard Book of NURSERY RHYMES

FAITH JAQUES

Rhymes chosen by Zena Sutherland

view of the illustrator's role, stemming from her admiration for such precursors as Eric Fraser and Edward Ardizzone. "The words matter," she once wrote, "and my real job is to catch the mood and 'flavour' of the author." And in her effort to stay true to the text, she paid minute attention to technical and historic details, and compiled for herself a huge design archive which she filed with the assiduity of those wartime years.

What does a quid-box look

like?" she queried, working on the traditional rhyme of *A Peck of Pepper* (1974), and "How do you turn a Turk for two-pence?" She said her toughest job was illustrating Andrew Lang's *Red Fairy Book* (1976), because each of the 130 drawings demanded a "different scene". She later expressed doubts as to whether art schools were any longer instilling the stamina to cope with such assignments.

Although her favourite medium was pen-and-ink, Faith Jaques was also a skilled colourist, and towards the end of her career she devised a number of books of her own: two picture books about a Dutch doll, *Tilly* (1979 and 1980), and cut-out model books such as *Our Village Shop* (1983). Her last book was her most ambitious: *The Orchard Book of Nursery Rhymes* (1989), set in a well-scrubbed 18th-century. When it was done, she retired to Bath to catch up with my reading", and relinquished illustration for good.

She was unmarried.

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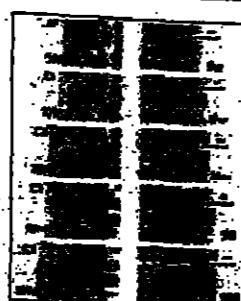
CONFIDENTIALS on travel services, car hire, flight tickets, etc.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY AUGUST 1 1997

US bank acquires DSS buildings for £400m

By CARL MORTISHED

THE Department of Social Security is to sell its entire property portfolio, worth £400 million, to Partnership Property Management (PPM), a consortium led by Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank.

The Private Finance Initiative project, known as Prime, was conceived by the last Government and given the go-ahead yesterday by Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security. It is the largest single real estate transaction in the UK, covering more than 17 million sq ft in more than 700 buildings.

PPM was chosen from a shortlist of two bidders, its rival being Mapley Holdings, a group that includes Nations Bank and Burford, the property company. PPM comprises the Whitehall Street Real Estate Partnership, a fund run by Goldman Sachs, Amec, the builder, Berkeley Group, the developer, Vines Management, Compass Management and Richard Ellis, the surveyors.

Prime is expected to be followed by similar government property deals. Deloitte & Touche, which advised the DSS on this transaction, is working on a proposal for a £2.5 billion private finance scheme covering 450 properties for the Inland Revenue and Customs & Excise. A competition is underway to redevelop the Chelsea Barracks into residential housing.

Prime could revolutionise the way the property industry does business, with major public companies seeking similar deals. Manesh Chanda, chief executive of Prime, said: "We do intend to become a substantial business and bid for other projects."

The deal marks the first contract in the DSS's Change programme to be awarded since Labour came to power. In the next few days, Ms Harman is expected to invite final bids for its Impact contract, which will privatisate medical services for the Benefits Agency. Four consortia—including teams led by Andersen Consulting and Capita Group—are in line for the privatisation, which is worth in excess of £500 million.

Ms Harman is also expected to drop the privatisation of the child benefit distribution system—Prospect—although there will be a new scheme to computerise the service. Projects involving small computer systems and the use of outside consultants are also expected to be approved.

The DSS, which employs

Commentary, page 23

Capital bid for Virgin transmitted to MMC

By JASON NISSE

NIGEL GRIFFITHS, the Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, yesterday referred Capital Radio's controversial bid for Richard Branson's Virgin Radio to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The £64.7 million offer, roundly attacked within the radio industry, was waived through by the Radio Authority, the industry regulator, last month. But John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, decided that the bid would give Capital a dominant share of the market for radio advertising in London and recommended referral. The MMC is due to report in November.

Virgin won a national AM licence four years ago and was awarded the London FM franchise. Capital and Virgin said yesterday they thought the bid

raised no competition issues. Will Whithorn, a director of Virgin, said: "For the OFT to refer this to the MMC, but handle the BA/American deal with kid gloves, is amazing."

However, David Mansfield, who takes over at Capital's chief executive in October, had vowed to disband Capital's media-selling organisation, which will cut its dominant position in the advertising market. He said buying Virgin was essential for the development of digital commercial radio, which Capital wants to launch on Virgin's national AM franchise.

Capital and Virgin said yesterday they thought the bid

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Capital and Virgin said yesterday they thought the bid

ICL to put Tube in smartcard age

By JASON NISSE

LONDON TRANSPORT will today announce that it has awarded a Private Finance Initiative project to replace bus and Underground tickets with new smartcards to a consortium led by ICL, the computer group, and EDS, the Texan consultancy.

The award of the contract, called Prestige, and believed to be worth more than £500 million, comes at the end of a complex two-year tendering process that has led to the project being more than six months late.

The ICL/EDS team includes Cubic Corporation and WS Atkins and is called TransSys. It was the only bidder left after the withdrawal of three other groups, one led by IBM, another led by BT and the third made up of

Olivetti, Andersen Consulting, KPMG and National Express.

TransSys has vowed to revolutionise people's travel to work. Instead of the current paper tickets that are put through machines that operate the barriers on the Tube network, there will be plastic cards with computer chips that will be scanned in the same way tills operate in supermarkets.

London Underground hopes that the smartcards will speed up ticket sales, cut fraud and improve information about customer travel patterns.

The Prestige project was caught up in the excessive bureaucracy that has dogged the PFI and its award will come as a great relief to both the Treasury and the Department of Transport.

City angry at BT's silence over MCI merger

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR PETER BONFIELD, chief executive of BT, further angered the City by maintaining a wall of silence over the company's troubled £12 billion merger with MCI, the US telecoms company.

Sir Peter yesterday refused to reveal details of the review that BT started after MCI's profits warning early this month, although he acknowledged that institutional investors have told BT they had lost confidence in its management.

Analysts and investors had expected news of the review with yesterday's publication of first quarter results. But the

reluctance to calm the increasing clamour for information triggered fresh frustration and further trimmed BT's share price. It fell 4p to 426½p. More than £5 billion has been wiped from the company's value since the profits warning threw into doubt the wisdom of the MCI merger.

Sir Peter declined to say what price renegotiations were under way or even how much scope there is to re-think the contract. He said the deal is a complex merger arrangement that is "interpreted by lawyers, but we are looking at the whole situation and the

contract is part of that". Sir Peter indicated that everything was on the table in the joint review which could be complete by the end of this month or early next month.

Sir Peter conceded that institutions had warned the company of a loss of confidence. He said: "Some of them have certainly said that." He said he could "understand their concern", but he denied he had considered resigning over the issue.

It is possible that MCI could counter any price renegotiation by saying BT, whose chairman is Sir Iain Vallance,

is less robust itself after changes to advance corporation tax and imposition of the windfall tax.

Richard Jones, telecoms analyst with Yamaichi, said: "This is very frustrating for everyone. We don't know what they are trying to renegotiate or even if they can or can't renegotiate." Mr Jones predicted another slump in the share price when the stock goes ex-dividend in a couple of weeks.

BT's pre-tax profit for the first quarter climbed 1.4 per cent to £881 million.

Commentary, page 23



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No details: Sir Iain Vallance, left, and Peter Bonfield

Who's in and who's out at the Bank of England

A tall, stooped figure, David Clement could by appearance as easily be an Oxford don, and an expert in something deeply esoteric to most as one of the leading investment bankers of his generation. While most corporate financiers tend to be brash, domineering figures, he comes over as mild-mannered and reserved, even shy.

But there is no mistaking his ability. He made his name in the previous Government's privatisation programme, having worked on the first of these, the 1984 sale of British Telecom shares, and then on other big share issues such as British Gas.

Mr Clementi, who was schooled at Winchester, trained as a chartered accountant, after reading politics, philosophy and economics at Lincoln College, Oxford. At Oxford he gained a reputation as an athlete. A contemporary article in *The Times* named him the star of the Varsity freshmen's athletics match, where he was unbeaten in the 100m, 200m and 400m hurdles events.

He went on to get a Blue in athletics three years in a row and a horded for Britain as a member of the 1968 junior international athletics team. These days his most strenuous exercise is sailing, a love he shares with Eddie George, the Bank Governor.

Mr Clementi has the knack of inspiring loyalty in his subordinates and values it in others. He was known to have been upset at the abrupt departure of a colleague, Simon Robertson, formerly chairman of Kleinwort Benson. Mr Robertson left earlier this year after a row with Dresdner Bank. Kleinwort's

DAVID CLEMENTI



German owner. But insiders at Kleinwort insist this is not the reason he has accepted the Bank's offer. Instead, he is thought to regard it as a significant advancement in any career in banking, especially if he eventually succeeds Mr George.

Says a former colleague: "He's much more pragmatic than many merchant bankers. You didn't have to sit through two or three-hour debating meetings. He could look at the forest and pick out the trees, which was extremely important."

"If you are stuck in the proverbial trench, who would you like to have at your back? He would be top of my list."

MARTIN WALLER

Gavyn Davies, head of international economics at Goldman Sachs, was floated as a candidate for Deputy Governor as soon as the Bank reforms were unveiled shortly after the election, and was considered likely to succeed Eddie George as Governor.

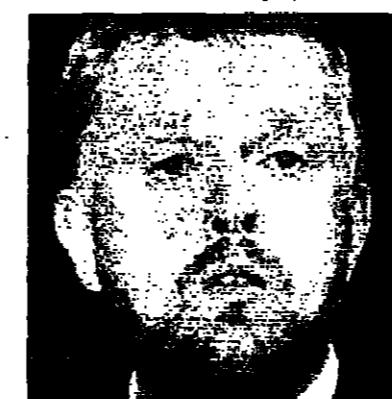
But his Labour links seem ultimately to have been the stumbling block to his appointment to the Bank. For all his economic expertise, there were fears his appointment to a senior position at the Bank would be seen as undermining the Old Lady's newly won independence. There was also a hint that Eddie George and Mervyn King had objected to the idea that Mr Davies could be guaranteed the promotion to the Governor's job long before Mr George's contract expires next year.

Alongside Lord Hollick, chief executive of United News & Media, he was a high-profile Labour supporter in the City at a time when the Labour Party was desperate to attract City and business talent into the Government. His links with the party stretch back to a stint in the No 10 policy unit in the final days of the Callaghan Government.

More recently, he has acted as an informal adviser to Mr Brown while his wife, Sue Nye, is in charge of Mr Brown's office.

There is no doubt Mr Davies will still want to serve the Government in some form. His position as a partner of Goldman Sachs has ensured he is one of the highest paid economists in the City. But colleagues insist that money is not

GAVYN DAVIES



an issue, suggesting that he has already made more than enough to enjoy a comfortable future. After all, this was the man who could afford to spend several million on a new home in Devon after pouring millions into the now defunct *Sunday Correspondent* newspaper.

Mr Davies could well take a post on the new Council of Economic Advisers, which is expected to be unveiled in the next couple of months — a position that he may be able to hold part-time. But for the moment, Mr Davies remains silent about his options, far happier talking about the prospects for his beloved Southampton Football Club.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

Mervyn King's promotion to Deputy Governor of the Bank of England establishes him as the favourite to take over the governorship from Eddie George. At 49, he is almost ten years younger than Mr George and is probably prepared to wait should Mr George win an extension to his contract next year.

Mr King seems to possess most of the requisite skills for the Governor's post, now the Bank has sole responsibility for setting monetary policy. He is widely respected in the City, where he has a reputation second only to Mr George as an inflation hawk.

His academic background ensures that he has the technical expertise which, as Mr George explained to the Treasury Select Committee last week, is now a vital requirement for members of the monetary policy committee.

But Mr King is also a skilled media performer who provides a slick and entertaining presentation to accompany the publication of the Bank's rather austere *Quarterly Inflation Report*. The ability to sell often controversial interest rate movements to City and country will be an increasingly important part of the Governor's job in the future.

Mr King joined the Bank in 1990 from the London School of Economics, where he had established his reputation as a tax specialist. His radical ideas on simplifying the income tax structure were used by Nigel Lawson as the basis for the 1988 Budget, while he also provided much of the early thinking behind the creation of tax-

MERVYN KING



exempt special savings account (Tessa).

Mr King is an avid Aston Villa fan, despite having gone to school in neighbouring Wolverhampton. His hopes of becoming a non-executive director of Aston Villa were vetoed by Mr George, a rugby fan, although he has taken the position of vice-president. Mr King, who lives in Notting Hill, West London, joked yesterday that he would like to spend more time pursuing his other interests — including music, tennis and reading European History — which he did "regularly before the inflation target was introduced".

ALASDAIR MURRAY

Worry over Airbus's date for unification

By OLIVER AUGUST

AIRBUS, the European consortium that includes British Aerospace, is likely to miss its 1999 deadline for becoming a single corporate entity, according to Jürgen Schrempp, the Daimler-Benz chairman.

In January, the four Airbus partners signed a memorandum of understanding scheduling a transfer of ownership for 1999, but the election of a Socialist Government in France in May has called the future of the aircraft maker into question.

Herr Schrempp said: "Airbus will attain company status, but I cannot tell you when I am not sure it will happen in 1999."

The new French Government and Aerospatiale, the Airbus partner in which it has a controlling stake, have retracted two concessions made in January. Aerospatiale is refusing to transfer assets to Airbus as agreed in the memorandum.

The French Government has also halted privatisation of Aerospatiale, which is a pre-requisite to creating a single corporate entity, according to BAE and Daimler. Herr Schrempp said: "I am a believer in private companies, not in state-controlled companies."

Bae said: "It is possible that the deadline might slip."

Glaxo Wellcome nurses hefty decline in shares

By PAUL DURMAN

RAPIDLY rising sales of treatments for HIV, migraine and asthma will enable Glaxo Wellcome to overcome the loss of patent protection on its biggest selling drug and achieve earnings targets for the next three years, the company claimed yesterday.

But the group's upbeat presentation of half-year results was not enough to prevent its shares falling 38p to 1291½p as the City responded to a warning that profit margins would fall this year.

The company reported a 2 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profits, to £152 billion, on sales of £4.1 billion. It said the impact of the strong pound obscured its progress, and that underlying sales grew 8 per cent.

Glaxo Wellcome gave warning that margins will fall from 37.5 per cent around 35 per cent this year, largely because of the increased marketing costs of new products such as Zyban, an anti-smoking drug, and Naramig, a migraine treatment.

The company is enjoying an unexpected boost from the complex legal disputes among the companies that intend to produce an unbranded rival to Zantac, the ulcer drug that lost its US patent protection last



Sir Richard Sykes, left, chairman, and John Coombe, finance director, yesterday

week. The disputes have so far prevented the appearance of a competitor to Zantac, enabling Glaxo Wellcome to continue selling \$5 million (£3 million) of the drug each day.

Novopharm, a Canadian company, had a deal with Glaxo Wellcome that it hoped would allow it to start selling the first generic version three weeks ago, but it was blocked by a last-minute legal intervention. Genpharm also claims exclusive rights to the

first generic version.

The loss of Zantac's patent protection in the UK and Germany contributed to a 12 per cent fall in its sales, to £807 million. However, Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo Wellcome's chairman and chief executive, said the £891 million of sales respiratory drugs, including Serevent, Flixotide and Ventolin, meant this had now replaced gastro-intestinal as the company's biggest therapeutic area. Zantac represent-

ed 43 per cent of group sales as recently as 1994.

Sir Richard said Epiriv, the anti-HIV drug, had more than doubled sales, to £199 million, and was "one of the fastest growing products that we've ever had".

Glaxo Wellcome is paying an interim dividend of 15p a share — unchanged because of its intention to rebalance the interim and final payments. It will be paid as a foreign income dividend.

Tony Watson

Employers face £10bn bill as Europe rules on pensions

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE prospect of UK employers having to pay a £10 billion pensions bill to their part-time workers has moved a step closer after a provisional ruling in the European Court of Justice.

The advocate-general of the court has expressed an opinion that part-time workers' pensions should be backdated to April 8, 1976. This would initially affect 100,000 cases.

British law currently allows

general's comments as a victory for part-time workers, who are mostly women, and those who have fought for their rights. The advocate-general said no national law should prevent the rights from being retrospective to 1976.

The National Association of Pension Funds said it would be "disappointed" if the opinion were adopted by the European Court when the issue is reviewed in autumn.

Tony Watson

Mystery bid approach lights up Ronson price

By JASON NISSE

SHARES in Ronson rose 2½p to 12½p after the troubled lighter maker revealed that it had received a bid approach.

Sean Dowling, chairman, refused to disclose the bidder's identity but Howard Hodgson, who was fired as chief executive in June, ruled himself out of the running.

Mr Hodgson said: "I don't know who is, genuinely. It isn't me... at the moment, I'm

stepping away." He is known to have made an approach to Albion Fund, Ronson's largest shareholder, offering to buy its 17.7 per cent stake.

Mr Hodgson and Christine Pickles, his girlfriend, who was dismissed as chief executive in June, are suing Ronson for £500,000 compensation for loss of office.

Mr Dowling said Ronson

may sue Mr Hodgson in turn.

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| Bank Buys | Bank Buys |
| Australia \$ 22.10 | Malta 1.3 |
| Austria Sch 20.24 | Netherlands Gld 3,571 |
| Belgium Fr 65.16 | New Zealand \$ 2.64 |
| Canada \$ 2,389 | Norway Kr 12.05 |
| Cypres Cyp 0.852 | Portugal 12.12 |
| Denmark Kr 12.03 | Spain Pes 218.57 |
| Finland Mark 8.50 | S Africa Rand 12.26 |
| France Fr 10.58 | Spain Pta 264.79 |
| Germany Om 9.17 | Sweden Kr 13.25 |
| Greece Dr 4.95 | Switzerland Fr 127.73 |
| Hong Kong \$ 13.47 | Turkey Lira 270,757 |
| Iceland Kr 1.27 | USA \$ 1.744 |
| Ireland P 1.07 | Refugee rates as agreed by Bank of England |
| Israel Shek 5.45 | Refugee rates as agreed by Bank of England |
| Japan Yen 310.83 | Refugee rates as at close of trading yesterday |
| Malta 1.3 | Bank Buys |
| New Zealand \$ 2.64 | Bank Buys |
| Netherlands Gld 3,571 | Bank Buys |
| Portugal 12.05 | Bank Buys |
| Spain Pes 218.57 | Bank Buys |
| S Africa Rand 12.26 | Bank Buys |
| Spain Pta 264.79 | Bank Buys |
| Sweden Kr 13.25 | Bank Buys |
| Turkey Lira 270,757 | Bank Buys |
| USA \$ 1.744 | Bank Buys |
| Refugee rates as agreed by Bank of England | Bank Buys |
| Refugee rates as agreed by Bank of England | Bank Buys |
| Refugee rates as at close of trading yesterday | Bank Buys |

Comments payable on page 1 and submitted by 31st July 1997

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THOMAS GEORGE CLARK
AND

IN THE MATTER OF
THOMAS GEORGE CLARK

Notice is hereby given that the above-named bankrupt, deceased on 29th September 1996, died on 10th October 1996.

That the cause of death was natural.

That the date of death was 10th October 1996.

That the place of death was

London.

That the date of death was

10th October 1996.

That the place of death was

London.

That the date of death was

10th October 1996.

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London.

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10th October 1996.

That the place of death was

London.

Welcome to the great government sell-off. Goldman Sachs may be the proud new owner of a motley portfolio of properties inhabited by the Department of Social Security, but there are many more ugly offices still to come.

The estimate is that by the year 2001, around 65 per cent of the government estate could have been "priced", as this variation of privatisation is now to be known.

The Inland Revenue will be one of the first to follow the DSS.

A feasibility study has just been completed into the prospects for disposing of its vast portfolio and optimists are talking about a cheque for £500 million soon heading towards the tax man to bolster the less rosy results of self-assessment.

There can be little doubt that the chaps at the Revenue will be better employed seeking after tax avoiders than looking after 550 assorted buildings which comprise some 14 million square feet of space. And after the Revenue, Customs & Excise should not be far behind.

There is also a large tranche of Cheltenham which could soon be seeking buyers. Although we can only guess what goes on there, GCHQ takes up 117 acres of the seaford town and an imaginative developer could certainly provide the spies with a more salubrious working environment than they currently have on the site.

If the bonus-conscious partners of Goldmans see money to be made from taking over gov-

ernment properties, it is to be expected that the sums do indeed look enticing. Enthusiasm for "priming" is growing, and some high-powered consortia are taking shape in bid for the next contracts.

The property market is gain-

ing strength at the moment, and

investors are realising that there

are enticing yields to be had from

those buildings which are dis-

parately denominated as sec-

ondary or honest estate agents.

The attractions of each deal

will vary, depending on the split

between freehold and leasehold

sites and the scope for redevelop-

ment. The Cheshire Pensioners

could find themselves sent flying

as spivvy types in pin-striped

make a dash for the chance of

turning a unique central London

site into new and expensive

housing.

But the question which has yet

to be determined is how the

Government will account for all

the extra cash which could come

rolling in as it allows others to

assume the responsibility of land-

lord. Resort to off-balance sheet

funding takes government into

dangerous areas. The proceeds

cannot simply be allowed to flow

through into helping the Govern-

ment balance its public spending

ideals with its budgetary con-

straints.

The accountants in Brussels

are keeping a careful watch on

how the proceeds of priming are

to be handled, for they still have

their eyes fixed on the Maastricht

criteria even if few in Britain are

now focusing on those demands.

There will be no chance of the

British Government doing with

its undivided offices what Herr

Kohl was prevented from doing

with Germany's gold reserves.

Still no answer

from BT

The board of BT continues

to demonstrate a brazen

taking disregard for the

sensibilities of its shareholders.

Yesterday it refused to give any

indication whether it was able to

renegotiate the terms of its deal

with MCI or whether it would

press on with shelling out £12

billion of investors' money on a

business which in chaos. Sir Iain

Vallance and Sir Peter Bonfield

may feel that a blithe assurance

that they remain supportive of

MCI's strategy should be enough

to send shareholders happy in

their beds, but they are very

much mistaken, as the continuing

downward spiral of the BT

share price demonstrates.

Given the scale of the losses

faces, one can understand if

the swashbuckling individuals

who had created the business

were so easily seduced by BT's

generosity. But the fact that Bert

Roberts and his colleagues,

apparently men of individual

spirit, suddenly succumbed to

the charms and cheque books of

Sir Iain and Sir Peter might have

raised a few qualms with BT.

The original deal, which gave

BT a 20 per cent stake in MCI,

made sense. The arrangement

should also have put BT in a

position to learn more about the

US market and its new partner.

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

price rather than none at all.

For Sir Iain Vallance, who followed his father into the Post Office, there may still be problems in coping with the needs of shareholders, but if he does not do so now, he may face a rebellion. And pointing out that he was Sir Peter Bonfield and not he who has sat on the MCI board will not save his neck.

By George, a new man for Old Lady

Congratulations are due to Eddie George. The Governor of the Bank of England held his ground under early attack from the new Government and now appears to have secured his position.

Yesterday, he looked triumphant as he presented his two new deputy governors, neither of whom would be likely to challenge him if he decided, as has been indicated, that he might like to stay on at the Bank for another term rather than retire to leafy Dulwich.

The spectre of Gavin Davies was nowhere to be seen in Threadneedle Street. Had all the gossip been, imagine, that the bearded millionaire economist

was destined to be the next Governor?

Davies, to be fair, has maintained a public silence on the subject throughout, but jungle drums have rarely played more closely to the same music sheet, which declared that he was only interested in being deputy on offer.

The likelihood is that Chancellor Gordon Brown was happy for that message to be played out so that he could judge the response to it. That came loud and clear: Davies would have been judged too close to Government to be seen as an independent voice at the Bank. His work for Labour was not the only obstacle. Even the broadest mind would have some difficulty in assuming he could remain completely untouched by the fact that his partner, Sue Nye, is an indispensable member of Mr Brown's team.

Got a light?

HOWARD HODGSON, the dismissed chief executive, has ruled himself out as the bidder for Ronson, the lighter company that nearly went down in flames. So who might want it? How about Stephen Hinchliffe, fresh from his courtroom victory over Price Waterhouse. Now that he can get his hands on his assets again, the man behind the Facia fiasco would have the audacity to try to link Ronson with the Colibri lighter business he still owns.

Confident TI to spend £400m on acquisitions

BY OLIVER AUGUST

TI GROUP will spend up to £400 million on bolt-on acquisitions by next March. The engineering and aerospace company said a number of deals were under negotiation but ruled out a move to diversify beyond existing activities.

TI reported a fall in interim pre-tax profits to £112 million in the six months to June 30 from £123 million in the first half of the previous year, when there was an exceptional gain of £20 million.

Despite the decline in profits, the results were generally ahead of City expectations. However, TI shares fell 24.5p to 543p amid profit-taking

Logica acquires Irish design firm

BY FRASER NELSON

LOGICA, the computer services company, is to double its exposure to the telecoms sector through the £15 million acquisition of Aldiscon, an Irish software company that designs systems for mobile phones.

Logica shares, which have plunged from 10.62 to 6.90p this year, rose 50p to 7.50p. The rise came in spite of the company's £2.5 million rights issue, whereby 9.13 million shares are being placed with institutions at 60.5p apiece on a one-for-seven basis.

Dr Martin Read, the chief executive of Logica, said: "The acquisition is absolutely bang in line with our strategy because it is in telecoms and it will add value-added stuff. The company has got repeatable

sales, and it's very international."

Logica intends to offer its IT and e-mail services to mobile phone clients who include Motorola, Orange and MCI.

Dr Read said that Logica had solved its earlier problems of finding enough computer programmers. It had already found 220 graduates to fill the 350 spaces that it has this year, he said.

After winning a £10 million contract in France to prepare computers for European monetary union and work on the millennium computer problem, Logica's order book is 26 per cent up on last year.

Logica has also won a £6 million contract from the Bank of Turkey and a £14 million outsourcing contract from Polaris, the insurer.

NatWest Business Accounts Interest Rates

NatWest announces the following interest rates, effective from 1 August 1997:

| Savers' Reserve Account | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Gross Interest per annum* | Balances | Gross Compounded Annual Benefit† |
| 4.750% | £250,000 and above | 4.84% |
| 4.620% | £160,000 - £249,999 | 4.70% |
| 4.500% | £25,000 - £99,999 | 4.58% |
| 4.000% | £2,000 - £24,999 | 4.05% |
| 3.500% | £500 - £1,999 | 3.55% |
| 2.250% | £0 - £499 | 2.27% |

* Where appropriate, will be cleared of interest from time to time if paid before the end of the month. Subject to the usual banking terms and conditions.
† Gross Compounded Annual Rate is the true annual return on your deposits if the interest payments are retained in the account.

NatWest

National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lombard, London EC2P 2BP

Lasmo on the lookout for Middle East opportunities

BY CARL MORTISHED

LASMO, the oil exploration company, is looking for opportunities in Iran and the Caspian region. Joe Darby, chief executive, said the company is looking for a new area to add to its five core locations in the UK, Indonesia, North Africa, Pakistan and Venezuela.

The oil company yesterday announced net profits of £26 million for the first six months of the year, down from £38 million in the previous year which included a £23 million disposal profit.

Mr Darby said he is seeking to secure a new core area like Venezuela, referring to the company's recent acquisition of the Dacian area, where Lasmo believes it can recover 880 million barrels of oil.

"In the long run we need to find an entry route into the Middle East. Initially we have been looking at the Emirates, but in the long term it is going to be countries like Iran or Iraq. Iraq is still off-limits but Iran is a possibility," he said.

Lasmo is also putting out feelers in the Caspian region, where Mr Darby sees the oil-rich Azerbaijan as an attractive area.

Shares in the oil company

rose 10p yesterday after news that production would increase to 250 million barrels per day by 2001. Mr Darby said that the forecast related to known oilfields and took no account of exploration prospects.

Earnings before exceptional items rose from 1.6p to 2.1p per share, but Lasmo is again not paying an interim dividend.

Tempus, page 24

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Bears dominant despite report from Schroders

STOCK MARKET bears giving warning of a crash have been undermined by a report from a leading merchant bank claiming that City fund managers need to spend £40 billion topping up their positions in blue chip shares.

The report from Schroders says that many institutions have missed out on the sharp gains enjoyed by banks and drug companies and risk further underperformance in their portfolios because of overweight positions in stocks like HSBC, up this year from £12.75, £22.05, and SmithKline Beecham, up from 778p to 811.89.

Paul Walton, equity strategist at Schroders, says it will not be easy to reverse these sort of underweight positions.

Stock shortages and demand for domestic blue chips by US investors will make the task even more difficult. "Many funds have underperformed because they have been overweight in high-yielding stocks which looked good value but have lagged the index as it hit a succession of highs," he said.

Meanwhile, other brokers have been pointing out that some fund managers have already decided to call the top of the market after its record-breaking run this year.

UBS's fund management arm is known to have switched into cash more than a year ago fearing the market had run its course. Others, like Mercury Asset Management, have not been frightened to sell when they have been bid for stock, such as in the case of LVMH increasing its holding in Grand Metropolitan, down 612p to 598.2p.

But if the market keeps on going up, they may eventually be asked to justify such actions.

However, it was the bears who gained the upper hand yesterday as prices closed near their low for the day, having seen earlier gains wiped out. An early deficit of almost 50 points in the Dow Jones industrial average set the seal on a lacklustre performance that left the FTSE 100 index down 19.8 to 4,907.5 by the close. A total of 920 million shares changed hands.

ICI was impressing American fund managers overnight as the price raced up 31p to £10.075 in London on the back of heavy buying on Wall Street. It has been giving them an update on the recent disposal of its bulk chemicals



TI Group's Sir Christopher Lewinton, right, and Martin Angle, finance director, saw the shares fall 24p to 544.1p

business and the acquisition of Unilever's specialty chemicals operation.

Dixons continued to go from strength to strength, rising 12p to 607.5p, still excited by the Government's decision earlier this week to scrap the recommended retail price for electrical goods. Nick Nicklin at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker,

has lifted his target price from 600p to 700p and says the shares are undervalued against the rest of the sector.

Airtours dropped 22p to 511.75p after Merrill Lynch

downgraded its recommendation from a "buy" to "hold".

The broker is said to be worried that increases in capacity will erode margins.

There was a muted response

to the decline in half-year profits at Glaxo Wellcome, down 38p at £12.914, even though the setback had already been widely anticipated. Brokers were disappointed with the performance of Pylorid, the replacement for its bestselling Zantac, and said the shares had started running ahead of events.

BT closed 4p lighter at 426.5p after refusing to comment on the possibility of renegotiating the terms of its £23 billion merger with MCI after its recent profits warning.

Top-of-the-range profits news from ITT Group failed to cut much ice with the City and the price came in for profit taking to end the day nursing a fall of 24p to 544.5p. The company, whose chairman is Sir Christopher Lewinton, has tried to distance itself from exporters, pointing out that it manufactures most of its products abroad. However, it admits that translating overseas profits back into a strong pound has cost it £7.6 million.

The referral of Capital Radio's £64.7 million bid for Virgin Radio left its shares 15p lower at 491p.

Logica raced up 60p to 750p

after hitting the acquisition trail with the purchase of Aldiscon, the Irish provider of advanced network systems, for £51 million. The deal will be funded by a one-for-seven rights issue at 60.5p raising £2.2 million.

Scaffied Resources rose 4p to 71.5p after rival Dana Petroleum launched a 78.3p a share bid valuing the business at £54.4 million. Dana retreated to 70.2p.

News of a bid approach

lifted Ronson 2p to 21p. The troubled branded products group last month reported full-year losses of £2.2 million.

■ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices suffered a sharp sell-off during the last hour of business. Dealers said there appeared to be no genuine reason for the sell-off. In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt finished 51.32 down at 111.16. In longer Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was 111.32 off at 111.16. In shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was three ticks easier at 110.22.

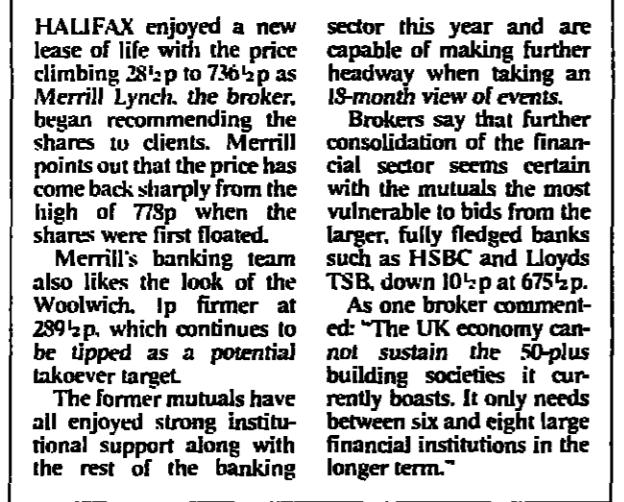
■ **NEW YORK:** Shares on Wall Street lost ground as investors started to look at today's employment data. The Dow Jones Industrial average at midday was down 7.43

points at 8,347.46.

sector this year and are capable of making further headway when taking an 18-month view of events.

Brokers say that further consolidation of the financial sector seems certain with the mutuals the most vulnerable to bids from the larger, fully fledged banks such as HSBC and Lloyds TSB, down 10.5p to 567.5p.

As one broker commented: "The UK economy cannot sustain the 50-plus building societies it currently boasts. It only needs between six and eight large financial institutions in the longer term."



HALIFAX enjoyed a new lease of life with the price climbing 28.5p to 736.5p as Merrill Lynch, the broker, began recommending the shares to clients. Merrill points out that the price has come back sharply from the high of 778p when the shares were first floated.

Merrill's banking team

also likes the look of the Woolwich, 1p firmer at 289.5p, which continues to be tipped as a potential takeover target.

The former mutuals have

all enjoyed strong institutional support along with the rest of the banking

sector this year and are capable of making further headway when taking an 18-month view of events.

Brokers say that further

consolidation of the financial

sector seems certain with the mutuals the most

vulnerable to bids from the

larger, fully fledged banks

such as HSBC and Lloyds

TSB, down 10.5p to 567.5p.

As one broker commented:

"The UK economy cannot

sustain the 50-plus

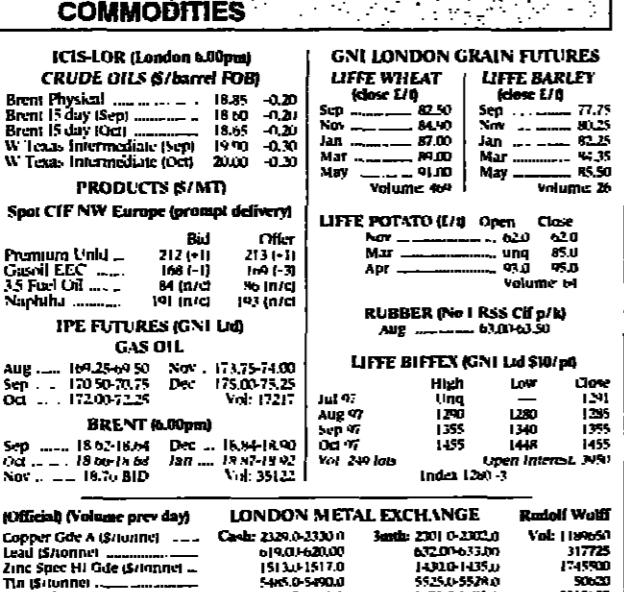
building societies it cur-

rently boasts. It only needs

between six and eight large

financial institutions in the

longer term."



Average forward prices at representative markets on July 30

(in £/kg) Pig Sheep Cattle

Fif 79.24 105.51 125.50

Edm 79.24 105.51 125.50



Big money: Luc Layec, the Belgian designer, centre, with replicas of his euro coins, which could be as dominant a force in world finance as the dollar

Euro will narrow monetary gap between US and Europe

The dollar will have its first real competitor since toppling sterling, C. Fred Bergsten says

The creation of a single currency will be the most important development in the international monetary system since the adoption of flexible exchange rates in the early Seventies. The dollar will have its first real competitor since it surpassed the pound as the world's dominant currency in the inter-war period. As much as \$1 trillion of international investment may shift from dollars to euros. Volatility between the world's key currencies will increase, requiring new forms of international cooperation if severe costs for the global economy are to be avoided.

The global economic roles of the European Union and the US are nearly identical. The EU accounts for about 31 per cent of world output and 20 per cent of world trade. The US provides about 27 per cent of global production and 18 per cent of world trade. The dollar's 40 to 60 per cent share of world finance far exceeds the economic weight of the US. The dollar's market share is three to five times that of the mark, the only European currency now used globally.

Inertia is a powerful force in international finance. For half a century, sterling retained a global role far in excess of Britain's economic strength. The dollar will probably remain the leading currency indefinitely. But the creation of the euro will narrow, and perhaps eventually close, the present monetary gap between the US and Europe. The dollar and euro are each likely to wind up with about 40 per cent of world finance, with about 20 per cent remaining for the yen, the Swiss franc, and minor currencies. The euro will probably be strong from its inception. The Maastricht treaty gives the European Central Bank (ECB) a mandate to ensure price stability. The ECB will place overwhelming emphasis on establishing its credibility as soon as possible. It will be especially wary of any depreciation of the euro's exchange rate and is likely to view euro appreciation as an early sign of success. The ECB will be the first central bank in history without a government looking over its shoulder.

The fiscal criteria of the Maastricht treaty are likely to be interpreted flexibly to enable EMU to start on time and to include the Club Med countries. The "growth and stability pact" to govern budget positions after start-up seems likely to have large loopholes. If unemployment remains high at start-up, the national governments will

deploy their only remaining macroeconomic tool — fiscal policy — in an expansionary direction. That would intensify the pressure on the ECB to pursue a tight monetary policy.

Combining such budgetary tolerance with a resolute ECB will strengthen the new currency. The proper analogy is with the Federal Reserve, which produced a sky-high dollar in the early Eighties in the face of Ronald Reagan's huge budget deficits, or the Bundesbank, which produced a strong mark in the face of large deficits in the early Nineties triggered by German reunification. The ECB is likely to out-Fed and out-Bundesbank its most distinguished role models. Europe may not carry out the structural reforms needed to restore dynamic economic growth. But markets prize stability more than growth, as indicated by the continued dominance of the dollar through extended periods of sluggish US economic performance. America's external economic position will continue to raise doubts about the future stability and value of the dollar. The US has run current account deficits for the past 15 years. Its net foreign debt exceeds \$1 trillion and is rising annually by 15 to 20 per cent. In contrast, the EU has a roughly balanced international asset position and has run modest surpluses in its international accounts in recent years. On this important criterion, the EU is decidedly superior to the US. There will probably be a portfolio diversification of \$500 billion to \$1 trillion into euros, with most of this shift out of the dollar. This, in turn, will have a significant impact on exchange rates during a long transition period, driving the euro up and the dollar down substantially. The extent of the shift will depend on whether the supply of euros rises in tandem with demand. It will also depend on the relationship between the dollar and the European national currencies when the euro is issued. While most Europeans

want a strong euro, they also want to avoid an overvalued currency that deepens their economic difficulties. Many believe their national currencies are already overvalued in spite of recent substantial declines against the dollar. The only way they can avoid the dilemma is to depreciate the European national currencies further before the launch of the euro. The EU would then be able to set the initial exchange rate below the fundamental equilibrium exchange rate and the euro could appreciate modestly without undermining the long-term competitive position of the European economy.

Exchange-market developments from now until the early part of the next century could be a mirror image of the first half of the Eighties. During that period, US budget deficits soared. The elimination of Japanese exchange controls triggered a large portfolio diversification from yen into dollars. Fiscal tightening in Europe and Japan further enhanced the dollar's appreciation. The opposite conditions may apply in the period ahead: further reductions in, or even the US budget deficit with European fiscal expansion and a large diversification out of the dollar triggered by the euro's creation.

The exchange rate between the euro and the dollar will pose a significant policy challenge. The EU and the rest of the world should reject any attempt by Europe to substantially undervalue the euro's start-up rate. It would represent a blatant effort by Europe to export its high unemployment and enable the euro to become a strong currency without any significant cost to its competitive position.

France is running sizeable trade and current account surpluses, even adjusted for its high unemployment. Germany has the world's second-largest trade surplus region. By contrast, the US is the world's largest debtor nation.

elimination of could coincide with European fiscal expansion and a large diversification out of the dollar triggered by the euro's creation.

The author is director of the Institute for International Economics (abridged from an article in Foreign Affairs, July-August 1997)

■ Anatole Kaletsky is away

Its trade and current account deficits are headed well above \$200 billion in 1997. These facts hardly suggest that the European currencies are too strong or that the dollar is too weak. The G-7, should, at a minimum, actively resist further European depreciations and dollar appreciation.

European countries pay relatively little attention to fluctuations in their national currencies vis-a-vis the dollar. But external events will play an even smaller role in the larger, unified European economy. Larger and even more frequent changes in the exchange rate of the euro could be accepted with equanimity. The EU might even promote greater currency movements to achieve external adjustment, as the US has done on occasion.

The EU and the US must recognise that prolonged misalignments would be costly for their economies too. The US learned this in the mid-Eighties when dollar overvaluation caused an extended recession in manufacturing and agriculture. Given the pivotal role of the EU and the US in global trade policy, such lapses would be extremely harmful to the world economy. A structured exchange-rate regime should be developed to manage the relationship that will emerge between the dollar and the euro.

The EU, Japan and the US should negotiate a target zone system with broad currency bands, perhaps 10 per cent on both sides of a nominal midpoint, that would avoid large current account imbalances and their attendant problems.

When President François Mitterrand of France and Helmut Schmidt, the German Chancellor, decided to create the European monetary system in 1979, one of their goals was to foster a more stable global monetary regime. The creation of EMU could bring that vision closer to reality. However, in the absence of cooperation between the EU and the US, the euro could create instability. It is up to the governments of the two regions to achieve a smooth transition from the sterling and dollar-dominated monetary regimes of the 19th and 20th centuries to a stable dollar and euro system in the early 21st century.

The author is director of the Institute for International Economics (abridged from an article in Foreign Affairs, July-August 1997)

■ Anatole Kaletsky is away

Party poopers

UNLUCKY Bill Emmott, the editor of *The Economist*, is sending out invitations to a drinks party at the trendy Arts Club in Mayfair on September 9. Unfortunately this is the night of the annual dinner of the Trades Union Congress's general council at their conference in Brighton. Normally, such a gathering of the horny-handed sons of toil would not trouble the diaries of the London *haut monde*. But not under a Labour Government, however new.

Tony Blair will be at the TUC dinner. So will Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, as well

as David Blunkett, Margaret Beckett and a host of other ministers. Likewise CBI head Adair Turner, who will speak at the conference the following day, after the Archbishop of Canterbury of all people. This will leave *The Economist* party looking a little threadbare.

OLIVER BARING, who runs South African and African corporate finance business at SBC Warburg, has been limping around on crutches and in plaster. His injury, a shattered knee-cap, was sustained bravely on the sports field. Funny time of year to be playing rugby! Perhaps he slipped on the squash court? The perpetrator was Baring's 19-year-old son Esmond, nicknamed Badger, the weapon a croquet ball, accidentally launched at his father. "Croquet is an extremely dangerous game," Baring claims weakly.

Small print
A SMALL Kent printer is suing Reed Elsevier over the disputed use of the Minerva trademark. Sittingbourne Print has used the name on stationery and packaging sold to local farmers and the like for more than a decade now,



CITY DIARY

and registered the trade name in 1989. Minerva, originally the Etruscan goddess of arts and crafts, is also the name of a publishing imprint that was owned by Reed. Mike Hill, Sittingbourne's managing director, claims Reed is hiding behind a loophole, because his name is registered to cover paper and paper articles, and Reed claims this description does not cover books.

Bewilderment at the Anglo-Dutch publisher, because Minerva, the book list, was sold to Random House earlier this year. "They can't sue us because we don't own the imprint any more," claims a spokeswoman. Hill insists his David and Goliath fight will continue. "It's infringing a registered trademark — I have an absolute exclusive right to use it. I would like to come to a commercial arrangement."

Phone home

IF YOU are lying on a beach in Eilat, The Gambia, Phuket or any other exotic destination and a Japanese businessman

ment." An arrangement, naturally, whereby Reed hands over an amount of money.

Headhunting

IF THERE really is a mummified pygmy in a vault bank at NatWest, he or she must be well placed for the job of heading NatWest Markets. Two more senior staff are leaving, to join the syndicated finance team at Credit Suisse First Boston. Grant Johnson, a managing director at NatWest Markets, takes on the same job title and becomes head of loan syndications. He is bringing with him David Slade as a director. Also joining CSFB is Richard Atterbury, as a managing director charged with expanding the origination and acquisition finance team within the division. He arrives from the Bank of America in Chicago.

FROM Mervyn King's brief blog, and a rare attempt at humour from the Bank of England: "He would like to spend more time reading European history, listening to music and playing tennis, which he did regularly before the inflation target was introduced."

plonks himself down on the next sun lounger, incisively checks his beach bag for a name tag. If he is Eisuke Sakakibara, get him to call the office. Sakakibara is a powerful Japanese Finance Ministry official, and rumours that he has been spotted in Tokyo sparked turmoil on Japanese bond markets. He was supposed to be on holiday, so his unscheduled reappearance could only mean action on interest rates, dealers surmised. The ministry in vain insisted that he was out of the country, but would not say where. "He is not in such places as New York, Washington or Europe," said a source. Doesn't narrow it down much, does it?

MARTIN WALLER



"You are held in a queue
— your call will be
answered in a few weeks.
You are held in a..."

Dominic Walsh on Forte's shake-up

Granada opens the door on a radical shift in hotel policy

Picture the scene. A disgruntled hotel guest goes up to the reception desk and asks to see the manager. "Um, we don't have a manager, sir," comes the embarrassed reply:

A ridiculous notion? Not if you happen to be staying at a Forte hotel, where manager-free zones are already a reality.

Granada, which paid £3.9 billion for Forte 18 months ago, has scrapped the jobs of 148 general managers at hotels outside London and appointed 58 regional managers with responsibility for a cluster of between two and six hotels each. In Stratford-upon-Avon, for example, the Forte Posthouse is now run as a single business alongside the Shakespeare, both part of the Forte Heritage brand.

Understandably, the move by the UK's largest hotel company has created something of a stir. At the extremes, it is viewed as either an inspirational rewriting of the hotelkeepers' manual or a cynical cost-cutting exercise that paves the way for a wholesale sell-off of assets.

The second theory is given some credence by Granada's decision in May quietly to put a package of 13 hotels, most of them Heritage, up for sale with a £42 million price tag. It is understood that another dozen have already been earmarked for disposal and a number of industry observers believe the brand's days within the company are numbered.

"Anyone who thinks this is

going to improve standards for the customer is in cloud-cuckoo-land," said one industry consultant. "It is quite simply a short-term attack on the cost base and that's not something you do if you're a long-term player in a market. I'm convinced Heritage and Meridien will go the way of Exclusive within two years."

One former Forte executive confirmed that further big disposals were inevitable, but cited the controversial £100 million profit improvement plan promised by Granada at the height of the Forte bid as the biggest factor in the removal of general managers.

There were quite a lot of savings to be made from cutting corporate head office costs and administration, and Granada assumed the same waste would be found in the retail sector. The problem is that the hotels have never been overstuffed. The wage bill was already at the lower end of the industry average and there was little or no fat to cut.

He added: "They claim the £100 million is in the bag, but if you buy something for £3.9 billion, you can persuade people of whatever you want. The reality is that they have struggled to achieve it and

But there is already evidence that standards are suffering. A senior hotel inspector from one of the best-known hotel guide books said: "Obviously it takes time for big changes such as this to bed down properly, but we've already noticed some deterioration. While I think it has every chance of working with standardised products such as Posthouse — as is already the case with Travelodge — there is no doubt



The Shakespeare is run alongside two other Forte hotels in Stratford-upon-Avon

Notice to existing Barclays mortgage customers

Variable mortgage rates will change as follows:

| | Old Rate | New Rate |
|--|----------|----------|
| Barclays Mortgage Rate (Generally administered mortgages; interest charged monthly) | 7.95% | 8.20% |
| Barclays Home Mortgage Rate (Branch based mortgages only; interest charged quarterly) | 7.95% | 8.20% |

If you have any queries concerning this mortgage rate change call 0800 000 929 between 8.00am and 8.00pm, Monday to Friday, or between 10.00am and 4.00pm on Saturdays.



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Barclays Bank PLC is a member of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme (UK branches only).

THE TIMES UNIT THIS IS THE END

Equities lose ground

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| 1997 Low Company | Price | % | Yield | P/E |
|--|-------|-----|-------|------|
| ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES | | | | |
| 1977 Allied Domecq | 125+ | 1% | 6.2 | 13.0 |
| 1978 Bass | 195+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1979 Bass & Stow | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1980 Chivas Regal | 150+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1981 Chivas Brothers | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1982 Diageo | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1983 Gordon & MacPhail | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1984 Heublein | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1985 Heublein Inc | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1986 Heublein Int'l | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1987 Heublein Int'l | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1988 Heublein Int'l | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1989 Heublein Int'l | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1990 Heublein Int'l | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1991 Heublein Int'l | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1992 Heublein Int'l | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1993 Heublein Int'l | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1994 Heublein Int'l | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1995 Heublein Int'l | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1996 Heublein Int'l | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1997 Heublein Int'l | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| BANKS | | | | |
| 1978 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1979 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1980 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1981 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1982 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1983 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1984 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1985 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1986 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1987 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1988 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1989 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1990 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1991 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1992 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1993 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1994 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1995 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1996 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1997 ABN-Amro | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| BREWERIES, PUBS & RESTAURANTS | | | | |
| 1978 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1979 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1980 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1981 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1982 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1983 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1984 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1985 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1986 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1987 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1988 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1989 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1990 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1991 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1992 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1993 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1994 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1995 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1996 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1997 Bass | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION | | | | |
| 1978 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1979 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1980 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1981 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1982 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1983 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1984 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1985 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1986 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1987 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1988 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1989 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
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| 1991 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1992 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1993 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1994 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1995 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1996 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1997 Balfour Beatty | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| ELECTRICITY | | | | |
| 1978 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1979 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1980 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1981 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1982 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1983 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1984 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1985 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1986 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1987 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1988 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1989 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1990 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
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| 1992 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1993 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1994 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1995 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1996 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1997 EDF | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| ENGINEERING & ELECTRONICS | | | | |
| 1978 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1979 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1980 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1981 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1982 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1983 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1984 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1985 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1986 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1987 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1988 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
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| 1990 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1991 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1992 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1993 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1994 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1995 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1996 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1997 British Aerospace | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| FOOD MANUFACTURERS | | | | |
| 1978 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1979 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1980 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1981 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1982 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1983 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1984 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1985 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1986 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1987 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1988 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1989 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1990 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1991 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1992 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1993 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1994 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1995 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1996 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1997 British American | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| HOUSEHOLD GOODS | | | | |
| 1978 British Home Stores | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1979 British Home Stores | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1980 British Home Stores | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | 12.5 |
| 1981 British Home Stores | 125+ | -1% | 5.2 | |

Hot beats best heard under a duvet of mud

NEW ALBUMS: David Sinclair hears Dreadzone, laid-back heroes of summer festivals, come unstuck in the warm and dry

DREADZONE
Biological Radio
(Virgin 7243 8 44405, £13.99)
IF THERE is one group that can legitimately claim to have captured the sound of the modern British summer it is Dreadzone. Having already appeared at more festivals than any other act this year, they have perfected a balmy mixture of reggae and techno bathed in a warm glow of wholemeal spirituality that is the perfect palliative for ears buffeted by extremes of rock'n'roll grandstanding and feet suffering from muddy boot syndrome.

But the air of relaxed bonhomie that produces that all-important feelgood factor on stage can sound a trifle woolly on disc, and there are several meandering instrumental tracks towards the end of *Biological Radio*, with ominously vague titles such as *Heat the Pot* and *Dream Within a Dream*, that are little more than extended waffles. Elsewhere, on songs including *The Lost Tribe* and *Earth Angel*, they explore their mung-bean philosophy ("I believe in love/I believe in evolution") with good-natured enthusiasm and plenty of clattering, world music percussion.

But with so little substance, and nothing to match the sprightly

tunefulness of last year's hit, *Little Britain*, the album's appeal is likely to prove more of a holiday romance than a long-lasting affair.

SON VOLT
Straightaways
(Warner Bros. 9362-46518 £15.99)
THE chorus of critical acclaim that greeted Wilco's album *Being There* earlier this year ("the new *Exile On Main St*" — everyone) has naturally turned the spotlight away from Son Volt, the "other" group to emerge from the ashes of the influential but unsung Illinois band Uncle Tupelo.

If the resounding glare proves, at times, to be a little too searching for comfort, then that is because the songs of Son Volt's singer and leader Jay Farrar do not have quite the same breadth of vision or obvious sense of mission as those written by his former Uncle Tupelo partner Jeff Tweedy for the Wilco album.

But what Farrar has got instead is a classic country-rock voice, which he applies to a fund of wonderfully crafted songs squarely located in an American roots music tradition that stretches from Gram Parsons to the Jayhawks.

"From Memphis to New

Orleans/In and out of railroad dreams/You're out there it seems, passing by," Farrar sings in *Crescent*, a slow, lilting song effortlessly graced with mournful pedal steel and cascading acoustic guitar breaks. With fiddle, banjo and harmonica augmenting the unplugged, guitar-band sound, the album embraces good-natured, down-the-line rockers (*Caryatid Easy, Picking up the Signal*) alongside darker spiritual laments such as *Been Set Free*, with an old-fashioned air of authority that is rare among artists of his relatively youthful vintage.

D*NOTE

(VC Recordings 7243 8 44528 £11.99)

THERE is a generation of master musicians now emerging in Britain that would doubtless have ended up playing straight jazz or fusion had they not spent their formative years immersed in the sounds and social life of the dance/club/rave scene. Instead, players and producers such as Roni Size of Reprezent and Tom Jenkinson of Squarepusher have gravitated towards drum and bass, a form of musical minimalism that offers virtually unlimited scope for spectacular displays of rhythmic ingenuity.

About a decade older than Size and Jenkinson, Matt Winn of D*Note is another of this breed, but one with a more rounded musical portfolio. On his third album, he combines "proper" piano and flute

playing with the fleet percussive undercurrents and ambient pauses of drum and bass to stunning effect. The svelte soul/jazz singing of P.Y. Anderson, who features on four of the nine tracks, is the icing on the cake. Her performance on the single *Waiting Hopefully*, is a particular treat, and the arrangement, which allows the shuffling instrumental accompaniment simply to melt away when the chorus arrives — a complete reversal of normal procedure — is typical of

this album's understated, intelligent and sophisticated charm.

JAM & SPOON

Kaleidoscope
(Epic 487262 £15.99)

IN THESE days, when bits of various musical genres are routinely mixed and matched like pizza toppings, what separates great artists from the dilettantes is the strength of commitment to their particular groove.

The German production duo of

Jam El Mar and Mark Spoon, best known in this country for their dance hit *Right in the Night* (*Fall in Love with Music*), display a shamelessly opportunistic approach on *Kaleidoscope*, flitting aimlessly from track to completely different track with no rhyme reason or underlying logic to bind the enterprise together.

There is a portentous guitar-driven piece called *Garden of Eden* unmistakably modelled on Pink Floyd's *Shine on You Crazy Dia-*

TOP TEN ALBUMS

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 (1) The Fat of the Land | Prodigy (XL Recordings) |
| 2 (6) White on Blonde | Texas (Mercury) |
| 3 (2) Spice | Spice Girls (Virgin) |
| 4 (3) OK Computer | Radiohead (OK Computer) |
| 5 (4) The Best of | Michael Jackson & Jackson 5 (Polygram TV) |
| 6 (11) Sheryl Crow | Sheryl Crow (A&M) |
| 7 (12) Do It Yourself | Seahorses (Geffen) |
| 8 (5) Come Find Yourself | Fun Lovin' Criminals (Chrysalis) |
| 9 (7) Heavy Soul | Paul Weller (Island) |
| 10 (30) No Way Out | Puff Daddy & the Family (Puff Daddy) |

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mond; a naff blast of Europop called *Kiss Away* featuring Plavka, their girl-singer in part-time residence; a techno-by-the-yard stamp rejoicing in the title *Warm Dead Dog*; a piece of flamenco nonsense (*El Baile*); and a sinister sliding bass-synth and ricocheting drum groove called *Usual Suspect* that is actually quite good.

No one doubts their credentials as hot-shot producers, but their lack of a core musical philosophy makes it all ring a bit hollow.

The relaxed bonhomie that produces that all-important feelgood factor on stage becomes a trifle woolly on disc for Dreadzone

Global warming

CELEA LIEBMAN,

REISINGER

World View

(Label Bleu

LBLC 6592 HM 83)

A "MAGICAL" maiden voyage for three open souls with mutual respect" is American saxophonist David Liebman's description of this free-flowing, gypsy album, recorded in France, but containing music drawn from a rich variety of sources: free jazz, world music, fusion and others.

All three participants have appropriately versatile musical pasts — French bassist Jean-Paul Celeni has worked with everyone from Pierre Boulez to John McLaughlin; Liebman with Miles Davis, Elvin Jones and his own wide-ranging rock and jazz bands; drummer Wolfgang Reisinger with the embodiment of arty European eclecticism, the Vienna Art Orchestra — and they exploit all their experience in 12 three-way musical conversations ranging from collectively improvised pieces through tumbling, punchily informal workouts to scrabbling free-form jams. Fresh,

JAZZ ALBUMS

passionate, open-eared, this is world music in the best sense of the term.

ENRICO RAVA QUARTET

Animals

(Inak 8801 CD)

I take the showbiz story at face value, then had Shola Ama not been human to herself while waiting at Hammersmith Tube station for a train to Heathrow, she might never have reached the arrivals lounge of the British chart.

As it is, her vocal doodlings were overheard by Kwareme, from the British soul collective D-Influence, and pen was soon put to paper. The 18-year-old ingenue recently completed a three-month run in the bestsellers with a confident remake of the Randy Crawford hit *You Might Need Somebody*, selling a spectacular 350,000 copies.

With a follow-up single, *You're the One I Love*, out soon and her debut album around the next corner, Ama is at a pivotal moment in her fledgeling career. Down one road lies international acclaim and a place in the vanguard of British rhythm & blues. Straying down the other could see

CHRIS PARKER

Some of her material, most of which she writes or co-writes, has the groove to survive in the domestic R&B climate, but her lyrics are almost all bald reiterations of emotional conceits that had

her trapped in a cul de sac, cluttered with the dim memories of previous British soul hopefuls such as David Grant and Kenny Thomas.

In recent months Ama has paid some stage dues as the opening act for 3T and the Fugees, and appearing at festivals. All the same, this London date felt like a debut of sorts and the place was chockfull, although the buzz of chatter that continued after she began suggested this was as much a gig to be seen at as one to listen to.

Kwareme's pontificating introductory speech seemed to load the dice of expectation, and Ama cut a meek figure at the top of the show, tiptoeing into tracks from that forthcoming album, *Much Love*, such as *We Got a Vib* and the title song. Her wide-eyed eagerness to impress had one rooting for a more authoritative performance, perhaps an unreasonable request of one so young. She will come to know that true soulfulness is about more than the frequent repetition of the word "baby".

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IN CONCERT: Hard lessons for a soul ingenue; cheerful revision by a top tribute band; master class at the piano

She still needs some body



Shola Ama will learn that true soulfulness is about more than the frequent repetition of the word "baby"

already gone around the clock in soul's heyday. *Who's Loving My Baby* was a stylish exception, and the new single lent a little more muscle before You

Might Need Somebody, saved for last, brought the loudest cheer of the night.

PAUL SEXTON

as dawn broke and the gaslights guttered out. Against some of Warren's strongest writing, Argüelles blistered through free and composed sections alike, leaving Whyman's swirling clarinet in his wake.

The most outstanding player of the evening was Warren himself, contorting himself into knots as he scurried over the keyboard, constantly adding invention, surprise and interest as he cheerfully spurred his musicians on. The breadth of his playing experience, from groups like Perfect Houseplants and Billy Jenkins's Voice of God Collective to accompanying singers June Tabor and Christine Tobin, has stood him in good stead as band leader and composer, and this material should help to consolidate his reputation when it appears on CD later in the year.

ALYN SHIPTON

Learning fun on the A-level train

THING suggests something demure, elegiac and well, museum-like. Do not be deceived. Peter Long's genial repertory band, the Echoes of Ellington Orchestra, certainly does not skimp on the authenticity on, say, *Rockin' in Rhythm*, but neither does it treat Duke Ellington's music as a dust-covered artefact of interest only to drinkers of warm beer and collectors of well-worn 78s.

We will always have the records to cling to, of course, and in recent years there has been an outpouring of books that shed more light on the musician dubbed "the hot Bach". Some of the scholarly attention, in fact, threatens to become excessively solemn and reverential, as if Ellington really did learn his craft in Kōthen rather than the Cotton Club.

Long and his hard-blowing colleagues provide an important service by adding a whiff of peregrination and humour to the Ellington industry. They remind us that the bandleader who devoted so much of his energy to suites and sacred concerts had one foot in the entertainment industry. The musician who wrote the concert piece *Black Brown and Beige* also turned out the catchy melody of *Satin Doll*.

The presence of *Happy Go Lucky Local* in the opening set summed up the mood. Lifted from the *Deep South Suite*, its shuffle beat hints at the visceral momentum of early rhythm and blues; in later years, it was subtly transformed into *Night Train*, that perennial favourite of both soul brother James Brown and boxer Sonny Liston.

Having heard Wynton Marsalis's Lincoln Centre Orchestra cover much the same ground, it was fascinating to see how well Long's musicians coped with what is presumably a much more slender budget. The piece brought out some of the grandstanding tendencies in the orchestra, dog-whistle notes flying in all directions from a trumpet section which featured the admirable Bruce Adams in full Cat Anderson mode.

Long imposed greater discipline on Billy Strayhorn's melody, *Snicker*, the saxophones supplying the darker textures on cue. Strayhorn's most famous contribution to the songbook, *Take the A Train*, is one of those warhorses that most people would gladly do without, having heard it played so many times down the years. This, however, was a refurbished arrangement, with the extended piano introduction seamlessly moving into a higher gear from a sprightly waltz opening.

The band's vocalist, Patti Revel, overcame the unsympathetic amplification to exchange sultry banter with the rest of the musicians, temporarily transformed into the self-styled Revelltones. Albeit Peter Ripper regularly bobbed into view with elegant approximations of Johnny Hodges, while Ray Gelato, a latter-day Louis Prima, made a guest appearance later, reinforcing the band's populist credentials.

The recipe is served up with a flourish on the new live album, *Rockin' in Ronnie's Jazz House*.

Echoes of Ellington Orchestra

100 Club, W1

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CLIVE DAVIS

LHMV

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A HOT, airless night in north London, filled with the sounds of passing police sirens and the street was the unlikely setting for the first performance of pianist Huw Warren's new suite for string trio and jazz septet, *A Barrel Organ* (*Far From Home*).

Each of the sections of the piece is inspired by a photograph of town or city life more than half a century ago, and in an intriguing blend of folk jazz and contemporary composition each brings these blurry images of a quieter age vividly to life. The opening part set a melancholy tone that persisted through much of the evening, with the strings providing a gloomy backdrop to the clarinet of Pete Whymann and the fagotier of Steve Buckley.

Throughout the suite such reflective sections were alternated with jaunty, angular melodies, redolent of barrel organ themes, and, over the

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION**

NO.83 OF 1994

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Dated this 1st day of August 1997

PATRICK MICHAEL BOYDEN for J M Thompson, Liquidator
Cork City, Limerick, Cork, Ireland

Angel Williamson meets those block-rockin' Chemical Brothers, unlikely rulers of the pop charts

We have the technology

You can take your pick when describing the music of the Chemical Brothers. *The Face* called it "psychedelic trip-trap-trance-melt space-based electro techno rock'n'roll with extra superfly funk". Elsewhere the more succinct "big beats" has become the accepted currency. The title of their most recent chart-topping single, *Block Rockin' Beats*, conveys the idea equally well, a driving, electronic dance sound with more beats per minute than you can count and decibel levels to make your brains drizzle. Dance acts such as the Chemical Brothers have restored the musical generation gap and redefined the parentage war cry of "I'm not that young". You're only as old as the Chemicals make you feel.

In the past 12 months they have moved from underground cult club DJs to international chart-toppers. Together with the Prodigy they epitomise the triumph of dance culture, a ten-year takeover that began with acid house. This year the Chemicals became the first British dance act to sell a million records in America with their album *Dig Your Own Hole*. The Prodigy's *Charly in the Land* followed, crashing into the American album charts in pole position, and both albums are on the shortlist for the prestigious Mercury Music Prize. At last there's a home-grown sound to rival Britpop, and it came as no surprise when Noel Gallagher lent his voice to the Chemicals' first No 1 single, *Setting Sun*.

But despite their success, Ed Simons and Tom Rowlands, the nosy-siblings who make up the Chemical Brothers, remain largely anonymous. We had arranged to meet in their local pub in Notting Hill and Simons, who looks more likely to sell you a life insurance policy than a block rockin' beat, was already there. I sat at the next table without realising who he was and the introductions were only made with the arrival of Rowlands, unmissable with his Rick Wakeman-style long blond hair. Fortunately there is no rock star attitude about either of them. "We haven't got huge egos," Simons says. "We are what we are, nice middle-class kids."

The early part of the Chemicals' story is hardly the stuff of which rock'n'roll legends are made; they met in 1989 when medieval history students at Manchester University. But before long they were being inspired more by hip hop and acid house than Beowulf and the Bede, and began DJ-ing around Manchester and making their own records.

"We were bored, and so I created a little electronic studio in my bedroom," Rowlands says. "We made *Song to the Sirens* and it was different from anything else around. DJs started playing it at techno clubs and it would wake up the night."

Although they have now made the crossover, the idea that dance is a superior underground culture far removed from the traditional rock industry continues to sustain the Chemicals' world view. "Dance can through the machinations of the industry. In pop and rock you have to negotiate with this huge infrastructure," Simons says. "In dance music you give the single to a DJ and he plays it in the clubs. That is all you need. Major labels sign dance acts from hearing a demo, and that just doesn't work. You have to build from the roots: good club DJs are not going to play records sent to them by Sony or Virgin."



"What we play has a greater degree of musical performance than a lot of rock bands," says Ed Simons (left, with fellow Chemical Tom Rowlands)

Yet by 1995 the Chemicals had themselves signed to Virgin and their first album *Exit Planet Dust* (a reference to their origins as the Dust Brothers, a name lost in a legal wrangle with a similarly titled American act) sold more than 200,000 copies. *Setting Sun* followed, and the sequels were completed this summer with *Dig Your Own Hole*.

Although the beat is uncompromisingly loud and boozing, attentive listening reveals a range of influences which help to explain the breadth of their appeal. "We are into the power of the sound," Simons says, "but it is a shame if people only hear the drums because there is a lot of other complicated stuff there as well."

One element which has made the Chemicals accessible to rock as well as dance audiences is their love affair with 1960s psychedelia, particularly the Beatles' *Tomorrow Never Knows* vintage. "They were people with limited technology really pushing the boundaries," Rowlands says. "We wanted to push on from that, and loud, disorientating acid house music seemed a natural progression. There is a spirit of adventure because

the club audience is receptive. You can do almost anything on the dance floor."

The Chemical Brothers have also become a hugely popular live act. To

those brought up on guitars and drums, it can be a disconcerting experience — at Glastonbury Simons and Rowlands were almost invisible behind their banks of electronics. If every beat is computerised, sequenced, pre-set and pre-tuned, aren't they really nothing more than glorified knob-twiddlers? "In electronic music you have a computer and you write into the sequencer what notes to play," Rowlands says. "So we have the component sounds in our samples, but then we have the desk where we mix the sounds and then we decide what plays when and where."

This still sounds like an ersatz form to me, but Rowlands insists that their performances are heavily improvised. "The last album came out of us

months before going out on the road. What we play has a greater degree of musical performance than a lot of rock bands."

The defence is spirited and eloquent, but surely dance music and its samples remains essentially a parasitic art form? "Parasitic is not an insult," Simons says. "If you came to

our studio the main thing you would see is other music, thousands of records. That is our starting point, using sounds not in a parasitical way but in a complicated, artistic way, morphing them to our own needs."

We move on to another difficult subject — the central role of drugs in dance music. The very name of the band seems to imply the link, but Simons is matter-of-fact. "The music is not aimed at drugged-up dance floors, but that is one of the surroundings in which it works. This is life-affirming music."

We part as the photographer takes them off to London's Westway in search of some gritty urban realism for a backdrop. It seems appropriate, given that the title of the current album was inspired by a piece of graffiti on a wall. "But we've now found a poem by Yoko Ono called *Dig Your Own Hole*," Simons says. "Do you think we get more credibility if we said it came from there?"

• Elektrorank, the Chemical Brothers' new single, is released on Virgin/Prestyle Dust on August 18. The band plays the V97 Festival in Chelmsford on August 16 and Leeds on August 17

It is
a shame
if people
only
hear the
drums ,

Don't hit the road Jack, stay home

It may sound like hip heaven, but going on the road with a band is hell

"ON THE road..." It's such a sexy, thrilling, who-knows-where-we'll-be-tomorrow phrase, evoking Roman caravans, and Jack Kerouac passing out in the boot of a Ford Mustang, out of his tiny mind on Nature's more interesting shrubs and cacti. You imagine a week of hanging out in the tour bus, cracking jokes that later get used in lyrics; being regarded as one of the gang by the road crew; and playing a tequila-fuelled tambourine solo in front of 50,000 screaming Mexicans, while the lead singer points at you in a dramatic, this-is-our-guru way. In short, going on the road is a journalist's chance to recreate *Stars In Their Eyes* while impossibly drunk in a country that's pleasantly hot.

Is it like that? Is it bobbins. You fly out, meet a homesick and hungover group of musicians who grill you for three hours on current plot twists in *Brookside* and *Teletubbies*, sit in a breeze-block dressing room while they swap in-jokes with each other, watch the gig, go back to the hotel for an hour-long interview with an exhausted and drunken lead singer, and mooch to bed. If it's an American trip, then the next day is spent trailing around after a press officer who is desperately trying to find (a) a coke dealer or (b) a place that does discounts on Maybelline mascara in

bulk for everyone in the office. Of course, none of this would matter as much if journalists' pride was assuaged by a laminate. Laminate are the gold discs of tour life, only usually issued to road-crew, band members and press officers. Every hack craves to have the Access All Areas necklace, if only because it allows you access to the sealed areas of venues, so you can sit down and have a nice little nap while the band play. So covered are these passes that Jonathan King walks around with every laminate he's ever been issued slung around his neck, like a smug Hawaiian garland.

But instead of this sexy, compact medallion, hacks on trips are issued with a stick-on Guest Pass, which makes you feel like one of those cashiers at Superdrug with "My name is SANDRA, how may I help?" emblazoned on their breast. And it rips the pile off velvet and other tactile fabrics when you try to remove it.

So don't think going on the road with a band is a crazy one-way ticket to rock'n'roll Valhalla. It's just a frock-running exercise in boredom, only relieved by an hour of frantic brain-searching, while you try to remember whether Jackie Dixon from *Brookside* is going for that eye operation or not. Jack Kerouac would rather have stayed at home.

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LONDON
BBC PROMS: Sir Béatrice de Rothschild conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in tonight's Prom (7pm), which incorporates three of this year's themes. The anniversaries of both Brahms and Schubert are celebrated with Brahms's vigorous *Song of the Castle* and Schubert's *Die Zauberflöte*. In a full major and minor-Yusif Izquierdo plays Chopin's full-fledged Piano Concerto No 2. Tomorrow, at 7.30pm, the BBC Singers and BBC Concert Orchestra under Barry Wordsworth perform Gershwin's *Summertime*, *The Gondoliers* (4pm on Sunday). Anne Manson conducts *Macbeth*, *Opera* and *Shelley's 21* (all in Well's Marlowe Song) and *Carmina Burana*. Sunday's *Scandinavian Mass* is a full major and minor-Yusif Izquierdo plays.

OTHELLO: David Haskwell makes his National Theatre debut in the title role of Sam Mendes's *Othello* (National, South Bank, SE1 0171-226 2252). Previous begins tonight 7.30pm. Opens September 10. 7pm Then 10pm.

ELSEWHERE

ALDEBURGH: This year's Snape Maltings begin tonight with a re-creation

of German cabaret songs. Sunday evening's concert at 7.30pm is given by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra/Alexander Lazanov.

GOETHE: Maria Callas' *Dagobert* (the 1802 opera) and Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto No 2* (soloist Toomas Jans) and Tchaikovsky's *Francesca da Rimini*. The programme includes Brahms's *Violin Concerto* (Graeme Harris) and *Hansel & Gretel* No 3 (with David James, conductor). Albert Hall, Kensington Gore SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight Sun.

AMERICAN IMPRESSIONS: English Heritage's open air concert series continues with a programme of music by Holst, Gershwin, Bernstein and Adams and Howard Shalit plays his own piano concerto of 1991. The fireworks finale, 2000ft above the mountains, is the highlight of the event. Grand Canyon Suite. Howard Shalit conducts the City of London Sinfonia. Kennedy Lakeside, Harrogate (01423 544 444). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL: Frances Cuka plays the Countess and Nigel Plaskitt's *Pandarus* in Helmut Koenig's production of a sometimes trenchant comedy. Open Air, from Cecily, Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431). Tonight, Sat and Mon, 8pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. In rep with A Midsummer Night's Dream.

GOLIATH: Nicola Benedetti plays a soloist of great verve in a remarkable solo performance presenting the realities of life on modern urban estates. Based by Bryony Lavery on Alan Paton's *Death of a Salesman*, it's a picaresque tale of a scrapping brothers living alone in their dead father's house (*The Lonesome West*). Directed by Gary Hyams.

LAST LETTERS FROM STALINGRAD: Intensely moving extracts from the long-suppressed letters written by the doomed soldiers of Hitler's last stand. Based on the memoirs of Alexander Solzhenitsyn, it's a cast of five. At the Garrick, Drury Lane, W1C (0171-481 3389). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

THE LEONINE TRAGEDY: Family life is a bloody business. Set in the Cossack village of Matrin McDonagh's *Tragedy* (a mother from hell and her desperate daughter (The Beauty Queen of Leenane) — first seen

THEATRE GUIDE
Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

In London last year musical success revolved around *Evita* (in the West End) and *Guys and Dolls* (in Covent Garden). A pair of scrapping brothers living alone in their dead father's house (*The Lonesome West*) is a cast of five. At the Garrick, Drury Lane, W1C (0171-481 3389). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

LIFE SUPPORT: Alan Barnes plays a travel writer recalling the events of his life while his wife (and an asied bee) Simon Gray's new play, *Life Support*, is a cast of five. Directed by Harold Pinter.

CINEMA GUIDE
Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol ♦ on release across the country

UCI Whitley Bay (01904 620000)
Wes Craven's *Arsenale* (0171-505 5096) Fulham Road (0171-372 2696)

CURRENT

♦ **BATMAN & ROBIN** (PG) Exhausting epic, with George Clooney and Chris O'Dowd. Old Vic (0171-315 4216) Ritzy (0171-737 3212) UCI Whitley Bay (01904 889990) Virgin: Chelsea (0171-332 5096) Fulham Road (0171-370 3326) Trocadero (0171-434 0031)

♦ **LADY AND THE TRAMP** (U) Disney's 1955 cartoon revisited. Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3320) Greenwich (0181-315 4214) Odeon: Kensington (0181-315 4214) Marble Arch (0181-315 4216) Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) Rio (0171-554 6577) Ritzy (0171-737 3212) Screen/Baker Street (0171-905 3772)

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

OTHELLO: David Haskwell makes his National Theatre debut in the title role of Sam Mendes's *Othello* (National, South Bank, SE1 0171-226 2252). Previous begins tonight 7.30pm. Opens September 10. 7pm Then 10pm.

ALDEBURGH: This year's Snape Maltings begin tonight with a re-creation

of German cabaret songs. Sunday evening's concert at 7.30pm is given by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra/Alexander Lazanov.

GOETHE: Maria Callas' *Dagobert* (the 1802 opera) and Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto No 2* (soloist Toomas Jans) and *Hansel & Gretel* No 3 (with David James, conductor).

Albert Hall, Kensington Gore SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight Sun.

LYNNE BOYER: Returns only for Sunday evening's round of Peter Sellars's crazily acclaimed 1995 production of *Antony and Cleopatra* with Peter Sellars in the title role. Daniel Barenboim conducts the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Glyndebourne Chorus. Sung in English. Mon-Fri, 8pm. Mon-Sat, 8pm. Last Tues (01273 813 1613). Sunday, 3.30pm. Then August 5. 13, 16, 18, 22, 4.35pm. August 10, 24, 3.30pm.

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London Galleries

London Art Centre, Islington (0171-345 2643) Design Museum, The Coca Cola Bottles (0171-378 6055) Hayward: Reproduced from *Artforum* (0171-561 2214) London Institute, Summer Exhibition (0171-514 6000) National: Seurat and the Bathers (0171-747 2685) Royal Academy, *Paintings from the Vanished Truth* (0171-306 0056) Royal Academy: 22nd Summer Exhibition (0171-439 7438)

Joan Rodgers as Theodora at Glyndebourne

1995

Long Runners

♦ **BLOOD BROTHERS**: Peter Hall, who directed the British premiere in 1965, directs Alan Howard and Ben Kingsley in a revival of Beckett's drama. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Tonight 7.30pm. In rep.

LONG RUNNERS

♦ **Pygmalion**: Ray Cooney's unexpected choice as director of Shaw's most famous comedy. Starring Emma Thompson, Monica Mancini, Barbara Murray and Marcia Warren. And Carl Woods, from straight from RADA, playing Eliza, Albert and Mrs Higgins. WC2 (0171-773 1722). Mon-Fri, 8pm. Mon-Sat, 8pm. Thurs, 3pm. Sat, 4.30pm.

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Internal flight alternative

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Robinson
Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Brooke [Judgment July 11]

Where an asylum seeker had a well founded fear of persecution in relation to one area of his home state but no such fear in respect of another area the question whether he should reasonably be expected to relocate to the safe area, the internal flight alternative, bore directly on whether he was properly to be treated as a refugee within the meaning of the Geneva Convention of 1951 (Cmnd 9717) and the Protocol of 1967 (Cmnd 3906) Relating to the Status of Refugees.

Accordingly, the immigration appellate authorities had jurisdiction under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993 to consider the internal flight alternative in determining whether an asylum seeker's removal would contravene the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention.

In seeking to appeal, an asylum seeker was required to state his grounds of appeal in his notice and the appellate body did not require him to engage in a series of new grounds; but where there was a readily discernible and obvious point of Convention law favourable to the asylum seeker, which was not taken on his behalf, the special adjudicator, the Immigration Appeal Tribunal, on an application for leave to appeal and the High Court, on an application for leave to move for judicial review, should nevertheless apply it.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an application by Mr Anthony Robinson for judicial review of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal's refusal of leave to appeal from the special adjudicator who had dismissed his appeal from the refusal of the Secretary of State for the Home Department to grant him leave to enter the United Kingdom.

On the applicant's appeal under section 8 of the 1993 Act the special adjudicator had found that he had a well founded fear of persecution in the Jaffna region of Sri Lanka from which he originated but that no such fear could be established in respect of Colombo to which he had travelled before fleeing to the United Kingdom where he had claimed asylum.

The applicant sought leave to appeal to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal but did not state in his

grounds that the adjudicator should have considered factors relevant to the reasonableness or otherwise of his returning to Colombo.

Mr Nicholas Blake QC and Mr Raza Hussain for the applicant; Mr David Pemcock QC and Miss Alison Foster for the Home Secretary; Mr Mark Staw for the Immigration Appeal Tribunal.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE giving the judgment of the court said that the Geneva Convention did not deal expressly with a situation where a person might technically be able to live in part of a country free of fear but for some reason it was not reasonable to expect him to do so.

No international court was charged with the interpretation and implementation of the Convention and therefore the *Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status* published in 1979 by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, was a particularly helpful guide to what was the international understanding of the Convention obligations, as contained in practice.

The 1979 *Handbook* stated that fear of persecution did not always need to extend to the whole territory of the refugee's country of nationality; that persecution in a specific ethnic or national group might occur in only one part and in such a case a person would not be excluded from refugee status merely because he could have sought refuge in another part, if it was not reasonable to expect him to do so.

A similar concept was to be found in paragraph 8 of the Joint Position (March 4, 1996) defined by the Council of the European Union and based on article K-3 of the Treaty on European Union (1996 Cj No L63/2) that where persecution appeared to be confined to a specific part of a country's territory the decision-maker should ascertain whether the claimant could not find effective protection in another part of his own country to which he might reasonably be expected to move.

The Joint Position reflected a contemporary understanding of the obligations created by the Convention, which was not confined to member states of the European Union and was based on the principle that the international protection afforded by the Convention would only come into play when a country could not afford the claimant protection within its own frontiers. See *Car*.

Authorising compulsory purchase order

Chesterfield Properties plc and Another v Secretary of State for the Environment and Others.

Before Mr Justice Laws

Judgment July 24

In considering whether to make a compulsory purchase order the Secretary of State for the Environment was not required to consider on the balance of probability whether the purpose for which it was required would be carried out.

Mr Justice Laws so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing the appeals of Chesterfield Properties plc and Kwik Save Group plc against the decision of the secretary of state to order the compulsory purchase of land in Stockton-on-Tees, and other decisions ancillary to the development of the land made by the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Secretary of State for Transport.

MR JUSTICE LAWS said that:

ada AGC v Ward (1993) 103 DLR (4th) 1. It followed that if the home state could afford what was called variously "relocation", "safe haven" or "internal flight alternative" when the claimant would not have well founded fear of persecution, then international protection was unnecessary.

But it had to be reasonable for him to go and stay in that safe haven. In determining whether that was so a decision-maker would have to consider all the circumstances of the case against the backdrop of the fact that the issue was whether the claimant was entitled to refugee status.

The court considered as particularly helpful the test stated by Justice of Appeal Linden in *Anandanandarajah v Minister of Employment and Immigration Appeal Tribunal* (1996) Imm AR 504, 509 was interpreted as adopting a more restrictive approach it should be applied.

It would, however, be wrong that mere arguable should be the criterion to be applied; a higher hurdle was required. Appellate authorities should focus primarily on the arguments adduced before them, whether advanced orally before the special adjudicator or in a written notice of appeal before the appeal tribunal.

But they were not required to engage in a search for new points. If there was a readily discernible and obvious point of Convention law which favoured the applicant although he had not taken it, then the special adjudicator should apply it in his favour, but should feel under no obligation to prolong the hearing by asking the parties for submissions on points which they had not taken but which could be properly categorised as arguable as opposed to obvious.

Similarly, if when the tribunal heard the special adjudicator's decision there was an obvious point of Convention law favourable to the applicant which did not appear in the decision, leave to appeal on that ground should be granted.

An obvious point was one which had a strong prospect of success if argued: nothing less would do.

If followed that leave to apply for judicial review of a refusal by the tribunal to grant leave to appeal should be granted if the judge was of the opinion that it was properly arguable that a point not raised in the grounds of appeal to the tribunal had a strong prospect of success if leave were granted.

On the facts of the present case, however, the appeal tribunal had not erred in refusing leave to appeal.

The secretary of state and the appellate authorities would do well in future to adopt the approach which was set out in paragraph 8 of the *Handbook*.

Solicitors: Nathan & Co, Treasury Solicitor; Treasury Solicitor.

of the Joint Position and the test suggested by Justice of Appeal Linden.

On the question whether appellate authorities should consider grounds not raised in the notice of appeal, it was the duty of such authorities to apply their knowledge of Convention jurisprudence to the facts as established by them when determining whether it would be a breach of the Convention to refuse a claimant leave to enter as a refugee.

They were not limited in their consideration by the arguments actually advanced by the claimant or his representative. It did not matter if the claimant would not have been able to establish his case against the backdrop of the fact that the issue was whether the claimant was entitled to refugee status.

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Similarly, if when the tribunal heard the special adjudicator's decision there was an obvious point of Convention law favourable to the applicant which did not appear in the decision, leave to appeal on that ground should be granted.

An obvious point was one which had a strong prospect of success if argued: nothing less would do.

If followed that leave to apply for judicial review of a refusal by the tribunal to grant leave to appeal should be granted if the judge was of the opinion that it was properly arguable that a point not raised in the grounds of appeal to the tribunal had a strong prospect of success if leave were granted.

On the facts of the present case, however, the appeal tribunal had not erred in refusing leave to appeal.

The secretary of state and the appellate authorities would do well in future to adopt the approach which was set out in paragraph 8 of the *Handbook*.

Solicitors: Nathan & Co, Treasury Solicitor; Treasury Solicitor.

They were not limited in their consideration by the arguments actually advanced by the claimant or his representative. It did not matter if the claimant would not have been able to establish his case against the backdrop of the fact that the issue was whether the claimant was entitled to refugee

Summer camps ease holiday hell

Activity trips soothe a ruffled parent's feathers during the school break, says Phil Revell

MANY parents view the school summer holidays with horror, knowing that the phrases "I'm bored" and "Do we have to?" will haunt them for six weeks.

At such times, many parents must look enviously across the Atlantic, where parents pack their children off to camp and get on with their lives.

The Peanuts cartoons have educated us all about the realities of summer camp. Charlie Brown will suffer terrible angst about his inability to form relationships. Lucy will boss everyone around, and Pigpen will avoid all contact with soap and water. But how close is the cartoon to reality?

Sixteen-year-old Max Mogren, from Winona in Minnesota, has been to camp every year since he was three. For the first few years, these camps were family affairs, with parents tagging along until he was old enough to cope on his own. This summer has marked his first break from camp. Instead, he is "homestaying" across Europe with families selected by the People to People organisation. "I really enjoyed camp," he says. "I looked forward to it."

Max's camp included canoe expeditions on the Mississippi. His stay usually lasted a week, sometimes two, which is the first departure from the cartoon truth. Few American families send their kids to camp for the whole school holiday. Another myth is exploded when we learn that most parents remain at work. Summer camp is not an opportunity for American parents to go on holiday without their children.

Summer camps are an American phenomenon. In Britain commercially run activity holidays for children have only recently achieved any kind of success. One reason for this is that middle-class parents often send their children to boarding school and are therefore keen to re-acquaint themselves with their offspring during the summer break. And for most of this century the Scout and Guide movements have provided camping holidays for children at a fraction of the cost of a commercial holiday.

Now that more women go out to work, childcare has become more important. Parents are also keen to encourage children to develop social skills and become more independent, and camps offer a secure environment for young people to spread their wings. The result has been the slow growth of summer holiday centres

Parents are keen for children to develop social skills

catering for unaccompanied children. PGL, based in Ross-on-Wye, Hereford and Worcester, has been offering water-based activity holidays for 40 years. The founder, Peter Gordon Lawrence, organised his first trip using two canoes and a coal lorry. Since then the company has expanded into the schools market and now offers holidays across Europe. A more recent provider is Superchoice, with centres on the Isle of Wight and at Weymouth, Dorset. Superchoice offers 50 activities at camps which can accommodate up to 600 children at a time.

The 10,000 camps throughout America include many specialist ventures, such as a music camp and even one for dyslexics. British parents have less choice, but there are sailing centres, drama holidays and eco-camps for the environmentally aware.

The Island Cruising Club, in Salcombe, Devon, offers sailing weeks for about £400 all in. Children stay in a converted Merser ferry boat, the *Egremont*.

The cost of such activity holidays is usually about £300-£400 but accommodation is often basic. Few match American camps, where children typically stay in chalets and are supervised 24 hours a day by camp counsellors, who sleep in the same dormitory. Families can pay \$3,000-\$4,000 (£1,900-£2,500) a child for summer camp, a price that reflects the staffing ratios and standards of accommodation.

Many British providers continue to use tents. Not the canvas ones that we remember from Scout camp, but robust plastic boxes. These may be practical but hardly offer the highest standards of comfort. Staffing ratios can also vary widely. Since the Lynne Regis disaster a few years ago, when four teenagers were drowned on a canoe trip, activity providers have radically improved their approach to instruction. But some centres are saving costs by bunching children into groups which are too big.

THE British weather is the main reason why summer camps are unlikely to become as popular here as in the United States. Camps in the Midwest and on the West Coast can rely on long, hot summers. In Britain, camps that look inviting in sunny weather become endurance events when it rains for days on end. But if the alternative is six weeks at home with frustrated children, perhaps the weather isn't so important after all.

Illiteracy and ignorance give the lie to better marks, says examiner Jim Brennan

A familiar assertion will be made later this month, when A-level results are published, that standards have not fallen. Anyone who read the examination scripts I spent the summer marking would dispute that. I graded nearly 350 A-level papers in classical civilisation, from a random distribution of centres throughout England and Wales, half of them independent schools.

These candidates had spent two years on a course that encompassed Roman society in the late Republic (80 BC to AD 14), Cicero's life and works, two other authors (Virgil and Juvenal), Roman Britain and Roman art and architecture. In three hours they were required to write four short essays chosen from 25 topics.

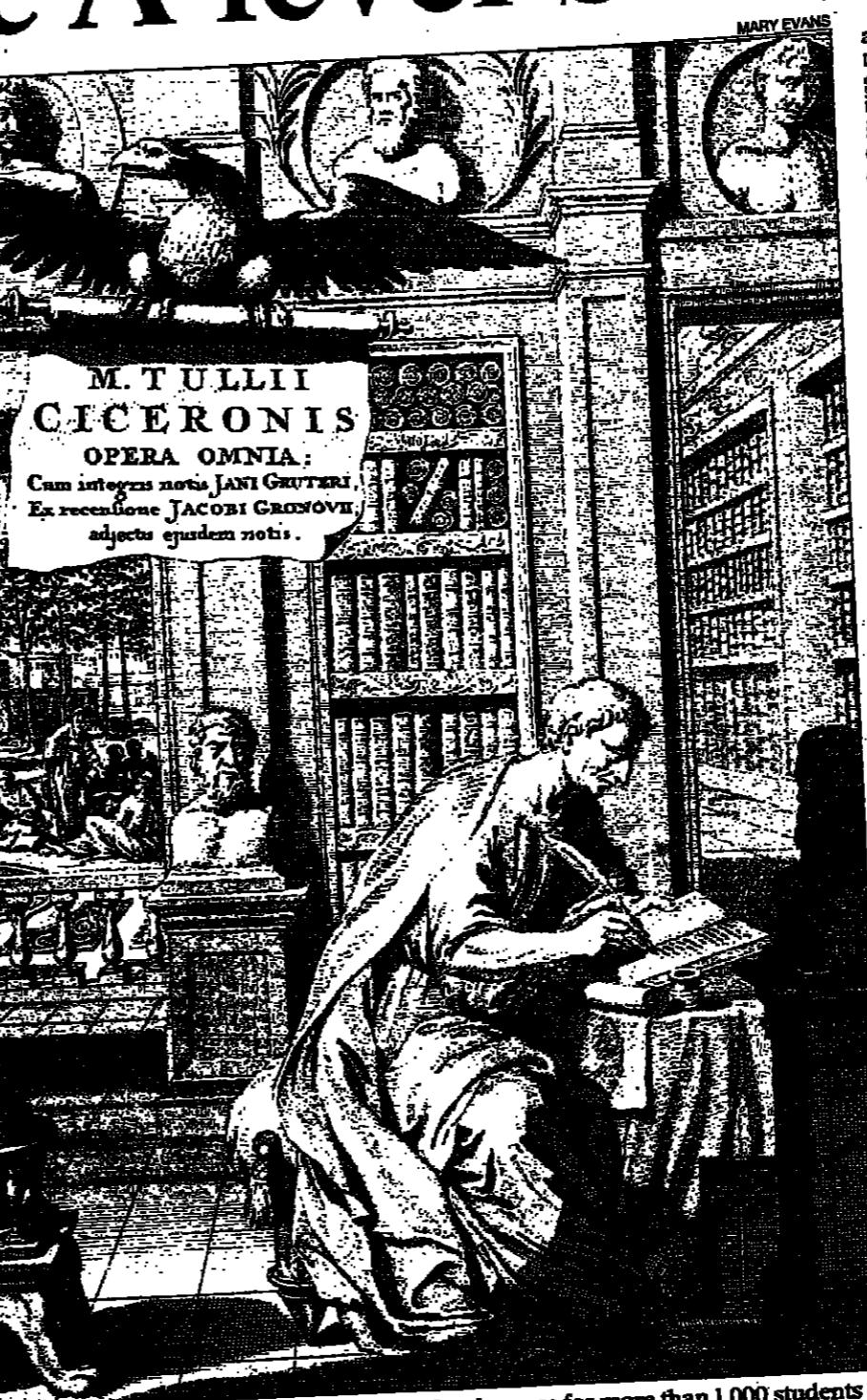
The number of scripts I marked is a reasonably representative sample, compared with the total of about 1,200 candidates.

In a fortnight, the results will emerge. They will be much the same as last year, or possibly better. The work I saw tells a disturbing story. I was able to award a mark above 80 per cent to only one candidate, above 70 per cent to only six, and marks well below 50 per cent to the majority. More than 30 scored below ten, and there were two zeros. But these marks will be scaled up and the true picture will be concealed.

Was I needlessly demanding?

Far from it; I spent a lot of time re-reading papers to find a reason for adding marks. The board for which I mark does not permit penalties for errors in spelling and punctuation. If it did, many candidates would have received a minus mark.

These candidates were in their last year of secondary education. Presumably they chose, or were encouraged to choose, this subject because they were thought to have some interest in, or aptitude for, literature and history. Their average age would be about 18. The majority of them will be saying to universities and, eventually, employers, that they have an A level in classics, which sounds quite impressive. Yet almost all those whose papers I read



Cicero's life and works: part of a two-year A-level course for more than 1,000 students

Sue Fox reports on an annual summer school that is hitting a high note

Through their powerful Music for Everyone programme, The Avi-son Charitable Trust, based in Newcastle upon Tyne, has established an annual summer school which is unlike any masterclass situation anywhere.

Students, teachers, eminent professional musicians and children come together to experience a musical journey with Benjamin Zander, the English-born conductor of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, professor at the New England Conservatory and visiting professor at the Royal College of Music, in London.

He says: "Education is about moving obstacles. I have a question" is the best possible state of mind for a human being." In Newcastle, there are lots of questions.

The journey with Professor Zander may change lives, but there are no auditions and no fees. "This is not a performance course," he says. "We take the first 35 students who sign up."

Students include a 15-year-old who has been learning the clarinet for 18 months, a primary-school music teacher, a professor of music from Eastern Europe who is living in the North East, the lead violinist of one of the finest chamber groups in Europe, a jazz trumpeter and two singers.

One young soprano is having a difficult time at college because her teachers keep putting her down. The other singer is a professional viola player, with a beautiful mezzo voice who has always wanted to sing.

Gordon Dixon runs the trust and is managing director of the Avi-son Baroque Ensemble—the first period orchestra in the North.

The trust and ensemble are named after Charles Avi-son, a distinguished 18th-century English musician who spent his life in Newcastle, establishing the town as one of the most prominent music centres in the country.

The summer school, now in its eighth year, was started by Mr Dixon, whose life was changed ten years ago when he attended one of Professor Zander's masterclasses in London.

"Ben made a promise that anyone who stayed for all 26 hours of classes would make a breakthrough in their music

are as close to illiteracy as they can be. Hardly any of them, for instance, offered an essay that had any shape or structure; instead there were stream-of-consciousness pieces, amounting to whatever jumbled ideas occurred at random. Knowledge of what constitutes a sentence was rare, punctuation haphazard and spelling bizarre.

Most of these young people will next year be in some form of higher education. Yet many think that allowed is spelt aloud, that "I would of" is correct, that there is no difference between too, and two, or between there and their; no one

apparently has ever taught them the rules about "ei" and "ie" or that nouns ending in "y", such as ally, become allies in the plural. I could go on and on; but the fact is that these were rules I had mastered when I was eight years old, not through any virtue of mine, but because trouble was taken by my teachers.

There were other, worrying trends. To

read the course, you would have encoun-

tered hundreds of times names such as

Cesar, Pompey, Juvenal, the Senate,

Agricola and so on. Yet these were

taken for granted.

Some of the essays called for evaluation

and interpretation of information, but some did not. Sadly, a great deal of the information included was wildly inaccurate. I do not mean by an occasional candidate, but by all the candidates from a centre; thus they had all been taught inaccurately and supplied with false data on the topic.

A minor but irritating element must be the handwriting, which I often struggled with. If I could not read it, I could scarcely be expected to award marks.

So what is going on? Are standards falling? Of course, they are—but there are good reasons for it.

Principally, it is a factor of the absurd expansion in post-secondary education of the past 20 years. The population has not increased noticeably, yet more children are staying on after the school-leaving age and attempting A levels, and then going on to still further education.

There is, naturally, less time available in the school timetable for each subject, as other new ones, have proliferated. Syllabuses have had to be whittled down. But there is a great difference between whittling and diluting. For instance, in neither Latin or Greek at A level is it now obligatory to translate into the language; that is dilution. Nor does one read so many set texts; that is whittling.

Having held two headmasterships, as well as in my earlier career run a large classics department and, since retirement, taught in a flourishing department in an independent school, I am in a position to suggest at least some of the causes of what is happening.

For certain, many new graduates are insufficiently taught and, in my subject, have read far less of the literature and know less of the history than I did when I graduated. That is curable; they can get down to repairing the gaps.

The real solution lies with the teachers and the question of how much time they are prepared to give to correcting their pupils' essays. I always found that if I marked meticulously, discussed the mistakes in class and poured scorn and sarcasm on elementary spelling and grammatical blunders, they disappeared. Equally, statements had to be accurate and, if not, had to be corrected and resubmitted; and opinions had to be supported by quoted evidence.

Not only did this result in years of success in examinations, but, more importantly, it was very good training for the day when facts and evaluation were essential in their career.

A gift from the heart for music lovers



Leading students on a musical journey: Professor Zander

available free of charge. "We come from backgrounds where learning to play an instrument would not have been possible without that help," he says. "Now, funding for music education has been so drastically cut, we have to find a structure for young people to see what music can bring to their lives. When I take musicians into schools, they don't pretend to be teachers. That's not what it's about. They are musicians who discover beautiful ways of encouraging children to think about sounds, timbre, images and colour."

Mr Start believes that the dire situation of music in most British schools will lead to a shortage of good music teachers and musicians for orchestras. He and Mr Dixon are clear about the trust's work. Mr Start says: "Some local organisations have moved into 'education' because it attracts funding, but 'education' was our starting point. It is the heart of what we do."

During his time in Newcastle last year, the charismatic Professor Zander, about whom the BBC is filming a major arts documentary, was asked by Mr Dixon to address 16-year-olds at Blakelaw Secondary—one of the named failing schools in the area.

"Afterwards, we gave them tickets for a concert of the Brahms Double Concerto with the Newcastle Philharmonic which Ben was conducting."

"None of them had ever been to a performance of classical music before, but they had such a good time, they also came to the next series of concerts we did with the ensemble."

When Mr Start takes musicians into schools, he often finds that the biggest troublemaker in a class is lit up by the power of music.

Professor Zander says: "When I teach and when I conduct, I talk to the passion in that person. Music is a gift we take with us throughout our lives. It is a gift to give away to the person who is listening. You don't play an instrument with your hands, you play with your heart."

• Avi-son Charitable Trust Music for Everyone education programme: contact Gordon Dixon, Louise Swann or Colin Start, 0191-226 0799.

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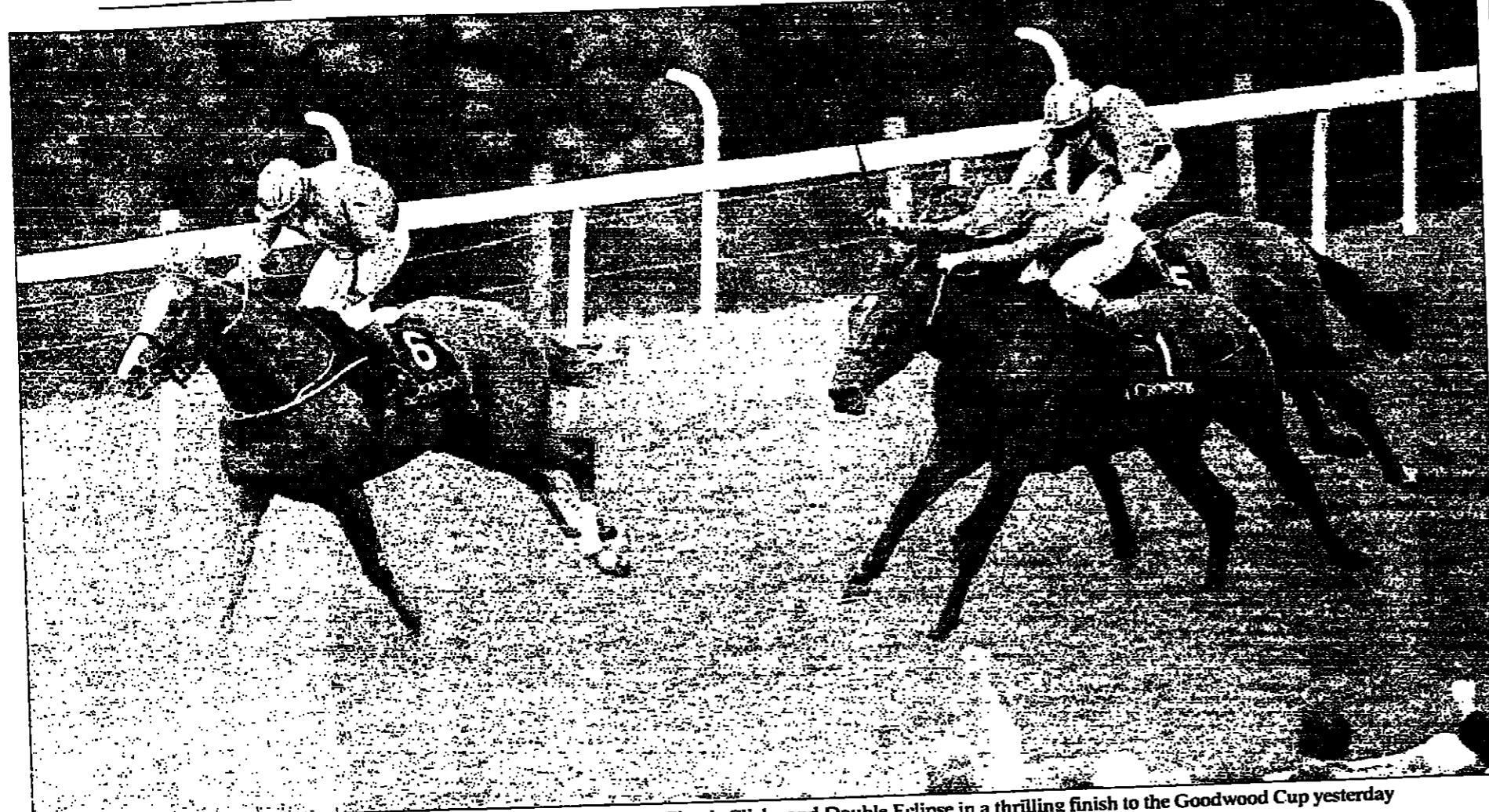
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RACING: ROBERTS ROUSES JOHNSTON-TRAINED STAYER TO SECOND GOODWOOD CUP SUCCESS

THE TIMES FRIDAY AUGUST 1 1997



Double Trigger, ridden by Roberts, stays on gallantly to deny Classic Cliche and Double Eclipse in a thrilling finish to the Goodwood Cup yesterday

Double Trigger rekindles enthusiasm

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER a morning of showers and slate grey skies which wiped away the glorious sun from Goodwood, Double Trigger and Double Eclipse yesterday picked the perfect moment to disprove the old saying that lightning never strikes in the same place twice.

It was two years ago that the Mark Johnston-trained equine brothers locked horns in one of the most memorable runnings of the Goodwood Cup since it was first staged in 1812. As Trigger just prevailed over the younger Eclipse after an epic duel up the straight, the cheers carried across the English Channel and racing sages muttered that we would never see the like of it again. Well, yesterday we did — against all the odds.

In the intervening period, Double

Eclipse has suffered the kind of setbacks which would have ended the career of most horses. He effectively races on three legs nowadays and has not had a proper workout on the Middleham gallops for 14 months. Meanwhile, at the age of six, Double Trigger's mind tends to be on the opposite sex rather than running quickly — with inevitable consequences. He has lost more supporters than the Conservative Party this year — and started at 16 yesterday.

The final insult for Trigger came when Jason Weaver, on board for most of his 11 victories, deserted him in favour of his younger brother. When the stalls opened yesterday, Michael Roberts, who has taken over in the saddle, did not need long to find out why.

After being kicked into an early lead, Double Trigger soon made it plain he would rather pull himself up. Time and again Roberts had to

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: AMYAS
(2.45 Goodwood)
Next best: Bright Water
(3.20 Goodwood)

nibble, cajole and bully his mount into concentrating on matters in hand. As the field bunched up behind the leader, it seemed only a question of when he would be overtaken.

When the challenge finally arrived, it was delivered initially by his brother, Roberts made one more demand on his horse and, somewhat to the surprise of the South African rider, Double Trigger responded and remembered how to win. For a few moments, it looked as though Double Eclipse would again claim the runner-up spot. In the end, Classic Cliche, the 5-4 favourite who had

been last at the top of the hill, spoilt the party by grabbing second place — but it mattered little as the crowd cheered the winner and Johnston to the echo.

"That was fantastic," Johnston said. "I have said for some time that Double Trigger has the class and should not be written off after three bad runs. It doesn't mean that he's thrown in the towel. Remember he is a six-year-old entire horse — they think about other things."

Henry Cecil will have every right to think about other things this morning — such as winning the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket next May — after a deeply impressive performance by Daegers Drawn, who provided the ten-times champion with his first success in the Salomon Brothers Richmond Stakes.

Confronted by a wall of horses in front of him approaching the final furlong, it appeared for a few moments as though Kieren Fallon

would be thwarted on the heavily backed favourite. A gap then appeared and the Diesis colt displayed classic acceleration to burst between Lord Kintyre and Linden Heights and win handsomely.

Cecil reeled off a list of future big-race engagements. Suffice to say, the colt, bred and owned by Cliveden Stud, is in everything bar the Boat Race — and looks a worthy 7-1 favourite for the 2,000 Guineas.

Earlier, John Reid had produced

the riding performance of the week to win the Oak Tree Stakes on Dazzle. Having decided the best tactics were to wait, wait and wait again, Reid finally unleashed the Gone West filly inside the final furlong to score a shade comfortably. Michael Stoute

unfortunately left it until after the race to announce: "We had her in tip-top shape today and I was very confident she would win."

Dettori switch to pay dividends on Great Child

GOODWOOD

BBC2

2.15: Shaheen, disappointing at Royal Ascot last time, showed solid form in mile maidens during the spring, before dropping to this trip to get off the mark in decisive fashion at Kempton. That race has worked out well — the third, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth have all won — but he has to be opposed with the worst draw in the race.

Frankie Dettori switches from Jorrocks to the Michael Stoute-trained Great Child, freshened up by a break since his unlucky run at Epsom. The better ground suits, and he acts on a sharp track (has won at Chester). Jawhari is unexposed, but Fun Galore's status as an intriguing alternative — he got bogged down in the mud last time, after shaping with promise on his reappearance — would be diminished by more rain.

3.20: Bright Water is the subject of excellent gallops reports, and certainly impressed on his Chester reappearance. A brother to Tenby, he should stay the extra two furlongs well, and his tail-wishing has not yet revealed anything sinister.

All told, however, he may go off at a false price, giving jaded up last year, and will relish the better ground today. He was unsuited by the slow early pace at York last time, and his trainer excels at this meeting — as does that of the inconsistent Medaille Militaire, who ran well over course and distance on his reappearance.

3.50: Lady Alexander exploited the air of neurosis that surrounds the hyped King Of Kings at the Curragh, bravely winning in a photo-finish as the runner-up was given an easy time. But she endured a hard race and drops back to the minimum, on a very sharp course, and preference is for Princess Natalie. David Barron, not the sort to get carried away by a horse, significantly started her off in a Doncaster conditions race, rather than a maiden — and she became the only horse to beat Desert Lady in her first three starts. Easy ground will help her cause, which may not be the case for the speedy types. It's All Relative and Mugello.

CHRIS MCGRATH



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HOW THE POINTS WERE SCORED AT HOCKENHEIM

Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole G Berger 30 points; 2 G Fisichella 25; 3 M Hakkinen 24; 4 M Schumacher 23; 5 H-H Frentzen 22; 6 J Alesi 21; 7 R Schumacher 20; 8 D Coulthard 19; 9 J Villeneuve 18; 10 E Irvine 17; 11 J Trulli 16; 12 R Barrichello 15; 13 D Hill 14; 14 J Herbert 13; 15 J Magnussen 12; 16 P Diniz 11; 17 S Nakano 10; 18 N Fontana 9; 19 M Salo 8; 20 J Verstappen 7. Finishing points (scored for the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st G Berger 60 points; 2nd M Schumacher 50; 3rd M Hakkinen 40; 4th J Trulli 30; 5th R Schumacher 29; 6th J Alesi 28; 7th S Nakano 27; 8th D Hill 26; 9th N Fontana 25; 10th J Verstappen 24; 11th G Fisichella 23. (Only 10 finished; G Fisichella was classified although he did not finish the race.) Lap points (one point for each lap completed): G Berger 45 points; M Schumacher 45; M Hakkinen 45; J Trulli 45; R Schumacher 45; J Alesi 45; S Nakano 45; D Hill 44; N Fontana 44; J Verstappen 44; G Fisichella 40; J Villeneuve 33; R Barrichello 33; M Salo 33; J Magnussen 27; U Katayama 23; J Herbert 8; P Diniz 8; E Irvine 1; D Coulthard 1; H-H Frentzen 1. Improvement from starting grid to finishing position (3 points for

each improved place): J Verstappen 30 points; S Nakano 30; N Fontana 27; J Trulli 21; D Hill 15; M Schumacher 6; R Schumacher 6. Fastest lap time of grand prix: G Berger 10 points. Penalty points: Incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted); none. Did not finish the race (10 points deducted); J Villeneuve -10 points; E Irvine -10; D Coulthard -10; R Barrichello -10; H-H Frentzen -10; J Herbert -10; M Salo -10; U Katayama -10; P Diniz -10; G Fisichella -10; J Magnussen -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): T Marques -10 points. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none. CONSTRUCTORS Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Benetton 30 points; Ferrari 25; McLaren 24; Prost 23; Jordan 22; Arrows 19; Sauber 18; Tyrrell 17. Penalty points: Incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted); none. Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted): Williams -20 points; Stewart -20; Ferrari -10; McLaren -10; Jordan -10; Arrows -10; Sauber -10; Tyrrell -10; Minardi -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): Minardi -10 points. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

The top of our Fantasy Formula One leaderboard in the race for our £25,000 top prize is headed by L Ackland from Guildford, Surrey. His team, Aston O, has a total of 7,333 points after scoring 568 points in last week's German Grand Prix at Hockenheim. His team comprised M Schumacher, Alesi, Irvine, Trulli.

Fisichella, Fontana, Benetton, McLaren, Ferrari, Sauber, Minardi and Lola. T Murphy of Altrincham, Cheshire, wins a trip for two to the Belgian Grand Prix. His team, Tel Stars, has 6,263 points in the competition. He scored 778 points at Hockenheim with Hakkinen, Berger, M Schumacher, Trulli, R Schumacher, Fontana, McLaren, Ferrari, Benetton, Sauber, Arrows and Tyrrell. M Collins from Royston, Herts, has 5,822 points overall and wins a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom game. His team, Scuderia Scommessa, scored 772 points last Sunday.

TO ENTER make three selections from each of the four groups below and call 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK). The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the Belgian Grand Prix and other grands prix where bonus points apply.

TRANSFERS Change up to four selections before the Hungarian Grand Prix by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday, August 7.

CHECK YOUR SCORE Check your score and position by calling 0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK).

CLARIFICATION: Rule 2 applies to the transfers and replacements listed below. The cumulative figure for Prost published after the Canadian Grand Prix has been adjusted downwards by 10 points as his car did not finish in that race. All entrants' scores are correct.

OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE GERMAN GRAND PRIX

| POS | TEAM NAME | MANAGER NAME | POINTS |
|-----|--------------------|----------------|--------|
| 1 | Aston O | L Ackland | 7333 |
| 2 | Dragon Racing | R Davis | 7211 |
| 3 | Gwift F1 | D Gwilt | 7199 |
| 4 | Coolsport | D Coolican | 7185 |
| 5 | The Tiggers | Mr R | 7117 |
| 5 | Cathy's Clowns | Mrs C Robinson | 7117 |
| 6 | Bezzotti Racing | A Scott | 7117 |
| 6 | F1 Erb | S Ehorn | 7117 |
| 7 | Smith-Astra | D Smith | 7088 |
| 8 | Formula Uno | P Tabone | 7076 |
| 9 | Sour Mash | R Owners | 7067 |
| 10 | Will And Nerve | A Mewes | 7067 |
| 11 | Cartell Racing | S Dimoto | 7067 |
| 12 | Becks Racing Team | M Kingdon | 7038 |
| 13 | Parkhurst Racing | L Danson | 7036 |
| 14 | Scuderia Vincitore | S Lorenti | 7031 |
| 15 | Midnight Ravers | C Newman | 7022 |
| 16 | Cyclops | R Bohee | 7022 |
| 17 | Goldfinch | S Goldfinch | 7022 |
| 18 | Freaks | F Retkowsky | 7013 |
| 19 | What Alesi Bunch! | N Rowe | 7011 |
| 20 | Scuderia Vitulli | Mr Vitulli | 7004 |
| 21 | Salanco | Ms S Dankevics | 6985 |
| 22 | Chris-Williams | C Quagliero | 6975 |
| 23 | Laura's Rob | J Smith | 6974 |

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The first column of figures, in light type after the names below, show the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the German GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far.

DRIVERS

| GROUP A | GROUP B |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01 D Hill | 99 593 13 J Trulli 112 110 |
| 02 M Schumacher | 124 1197 14 J Verstappen 105 713 |
| 03 J Villeneuve | 41 925 15 U Katayama 13 527 |
| 04 E Irvine | 8 864 16 P Diniz 9 478 |
| 05 J Alesi | 94 1091 17 R Rosset 0 0 |
| 06 G Berger | 145 793 18 R Schumacher 100 663 |
| 07 M Hakkinen | 109 845 19 G Fisichella 78 947 |
| 08 D Coulthard | 10 798 20 S Nakano 112 689 |
| 09 R Barrichello | 38 486 21 N Fontana 105 931 |
| 10 H-H Frentzen | 13 848 22 T Marques -10 599 |
| 11 J Herbert | 11 751 23 J Magnussen 29 510 |
| 12 M Salo | 31 759 24 V Sospiri 0 0 |

CONSTRUCTORS

| GROUP C | GROUP D |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 25 Williams | -20 107 31 Arrows 9 -49 |
| 26 Ferrari | 15 175 32 Sauber 8 98 |
| 27 McLaren | 14 114 33 Tyrrell 7 -4 |
| 28 Benetton | 30 185 34 Minardi -20 19 |
| 29 Jordan | 12 94 35 S Stewart -20 -99 |
| 30 Prost | 23 113 36 Lola 0 0 |

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 405 001

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CRICKET

Adams rises above perils with century before lunch

By JACK BAILEY

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of four) Durham won toss; Durham, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 195 runs behind Derbyshire

LIFE at the bottom of the table yesterday was rich in uncertainties. There was a pitch with unpredictable bounce, which made unconfident batsmen predictably tense and apprehensive, yet there was also a remarkable century, before lunch, by Chris Adams, who made light of the conditions.

There was, however, one certainty. After a day which saw 16 wickets fall, the umpires are bound to report the pitch. This makes Adams's innings all the more praiseworthy. For, while others floundered, Adams reigned supreme. He scored his century from 107 balls in just over two hours and his second 50 came from only 33 balls.

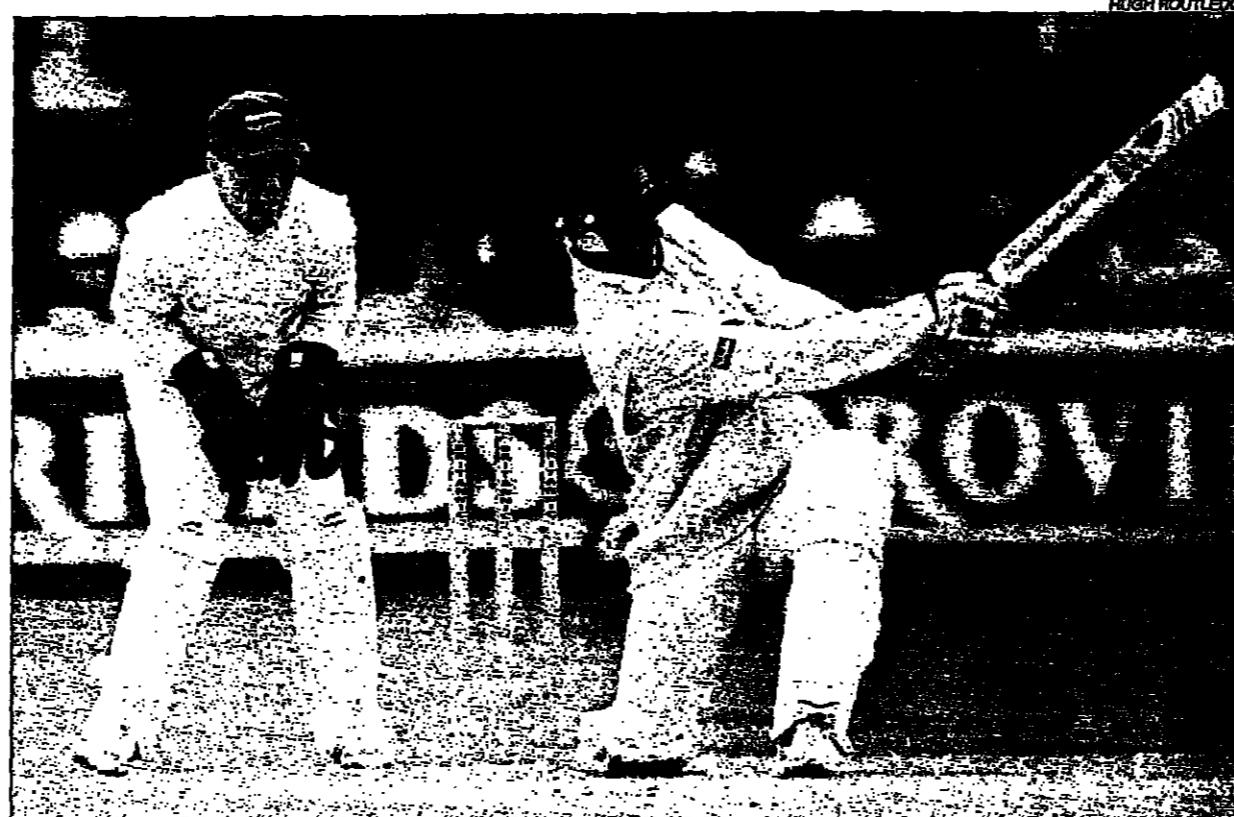
Powerful driving brought him many of the 16 fours which, together with a six, provided the major portion of his runs.

As he was bound to do in conditions so strongly favoured seam bowling, he played and missed several times early on, and he narrowly evaded Lewis at short-leg off a ball from Brown when he had made 18. But he put the bad delivery away with absolute conviction.

It was a conviction which rubbed off on others, notably Vanderveldt and Clarke, but it could not prevent Derbyshire losing their last six wickets in 36 balls for 22 runs.

This collapse put into true perspective Adams's innings and the notable supporting roles played by the gritty Vanderveldt, the free-scoring Clarke and, more briefly, Barnett, whose stand of 82 in 13 overs with Adams began the surge which turned the game Derbyshire's way.

There was little talk about



Law strikes Brimson for six to bring up his fifty during an impressive display at Colchester yesterday

Moles joins worrying injury list

EDGBASTON (first day of four) Warwickshire won toss; Warwickshire have scored 50 for no wicket against Sussex

IRRITATING

weather, always marginally too damp or overcast to let the game restart, restricted Warwickshire and Sussex to 16 overs before lunch yesterday (John Thicknesse writes). Unhappily for Andy Moles, the Warwickshire acting captain, that was long enough for him to break the little finger of his left hand, putting him in doubt for the NatWest Trophy semi-final, also against Sussex, on August 13.

The injury was Warwickshire's fifth of the summer affecting a key player, and since the others include Tim Munton, the captain, and Nick Knight, the vice-captain, neither of whom is said to be close to a return, it was a serious blow to their hopes of a late run in the championship, as well as weakening their prospects in the 60-over cup.

The ball from Vastert Drakes that injured Moles, in the Barbadian's sixth over, was the first that lifted off a length. There was nothing Moles could do to save his finger being trapped against the handle of the bat.

Foster chose a different, more belligerent approach. If it was up, he hit the ball hard, tactics which have paid healthy dividends. When rain and bad light stopped play, he remained undefeated, Durham's top scorer thus far, although that is not saying a great deal.

Law dominates agenda

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

COLCHESTER (first day of four) Essex won toss; Essex have scored 204 for two wickets against Leicestershire

STUART LAW continues to give Essex magnificent service and show how remarkable are Australia's cricketing resources. The Queensland captain made a superb century yesterday after Leicestershire took two early wickets, ending a rain-affected day on 124 not out and sharing an undefeated stand of 195 with Nasser Hussain for the third wicket.

Hussain did not play poorly. By the end of a day that lost 45 overs to rain, he was 52 not out, having survived the new ball when Prichard and Robinson fell to Mulranny and Millns. However, Law, who rarely gives the bowlers a glimpse of his true ability, set about them from the start and was blossoming when the rain, which had set in after two overs, returned in the last session.

How on earth Australia can

do without him is a mystery to people in Essex—and beyond. He is not just a fairly good batsman. He has proved himself to be a fine cricketer in every respect and he gives far more to the side than his scores can suggest. Perhaps he has upset somebody.

Law has been accused of being a "flash Harry" who does not translate his talent into really big scores, but Essex are not complaining.

This was his third championship hundred of the season, his fifth in all and his seventeenth in England since he replaced Mark Waugh as Essex's overseas player last year.

Last season, he made a century in each of the four competitions, but, crucially,

missed the NatWest Trophy final defeat by Lancashire when the weather delayed his return from Sri Lanka, where he was playing for Australia in a one-day trophy.

Despite those two early wickets yesterday, he went to his hundred from 147 balls with 12 fours and two sixes, struck off Brimson, the left-arm spinner. He later added a third six, lifted into the tent at mid-wicket of Pierson.

Hussain appeared second-rate by comparison. It is not really a fair comparison. Law, in this mood, makes even the best players look ordinary.

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Eight overs of variable line did not bring him a wicket but he went past the bat regularly, capitalising on the uneven bounce already evident in this pale-coloured pitch.

Kent decided to rest Martin McCague and may come to regret it. Alan Iglesias, his replacement, was soon taking punishment from Moody, who was still harsher on Strang. Moody, who is keen to take on the role of county coach in addition to captaining the side, has now decided to open the batting, too. At this rate, the garrulous will begin to feel insecure.

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How on earth Australia can

Advantage swings away from Yorkshire

By IVO TENNANT

HEADLEY (first day of four) Yorkshire won toss; Yorkshire have scored 165 for nine wickets against Northamptonshire

CHOOSEING a pitch at Headley remains a vexatious issue. Yorkshire opted yesterday not to play in the middle of the square, which was originally chosen for the fourth Test last week, but on a surface with uneven bounce that gave Northamptonshire's bowlers considerable help. The ball also swung, extravagantly at times.

There was little for any batsman to savour. Even a notable technician would have done well to stay in for long. Paul Taylor, the left-arm, took five for 42 — how, last week, Mike Smith would have liked to have swung the ball as he did — and three other medium-pace bowlers also took wickets. A total of 53 overs were lost through rain, and bad light.

Taylor, who last played for England three years ago, never looked to bowl above medium pace. He took four wickets in his opening spell, beating Sykes and Lehmann with late swing, having Vaughan leg-before offering "no" shot, and yorking McGrath. Any runs were scored either through luck or aggressive intent.

Yorkshire were without Moon, who has a back injury, and Hartley, who goes into hospital soon for a hernia operation. No play was possible before noon. Partly because of the poor weather at Headley this summer, the club's attendance figures might well prove to be the worst in their history.

The only batting of note came when Parker and White were adding 48. Both were out to balls that were almost impossible to play. The former was bowled by one from Boswell that scuttled through and the latter was leg-before to a ball from Mohammad Akram that cut back and kept low.

Gough came in to considerable acclaim from the Western Terrace and struck a couple of lusty blows before edging one from Boswell that swung away. Silverwood followed, in this mood, makes even the best players look ordinary.

Heads bounces back

WORCESTER (first day of four) Worcestershire won toss; Worcestershire have scored 58 for no wicket against Kent

DEAN HEADLEY began only his second championship match since May yesterday and bowled throughout the hour before the rain (Alan Lee writes). By the time that David Graveney, the England chairman of selectors, arrived to be entertained in the committee room by his uncle Tom, Headley's work was done.

Headley lacked the pace and bite at Headleying that he had shown on his Test debut three weeks earlier. Recurring fitness complaints continue to undermine him and it was

imperative that he played on to reassure the selectors before their meeting tomorrow.

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How on earth Australia can

British Assurance county championship

DURHAM v Derbyshire

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of four) Durham won toss; Durham, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 195 runs behind Derbyshire

DERBYSHIRE: Five innings

1. R May vs Wood

2. J E Brown vs D Brown

3. K Barnett vs Goffin vs Foster

4. C Boon vs Hart

5. V P Cade vs Brown

6. M Kelleen vs Bating vs Bell

7. A Davies vs Morris

8. D E Malcolm vs not out

9. Games (4, nr 18)

Total (54.1 overs) ... 109

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 3-1, 5-1, 7-1, 9-1, 11-1, 13-1, 15-1, 17-1, 19-1, 21-1, 23-1, 25-1, 27-1, 29-1, 31-1, 33-1, 35-1, 37-1, 39-1, 41-1, 43-1, 45-1, 47-1, 49-1, 51-1, 53-1, 55-1, 57-1, 59-1, 61-1, 63-1, 65-1, 67-1, 69-1, 71-1, 73-1, 75-1, 77-1, 79-1, 81-1, 83-1, 85-1, 87-1, 89-1, 91-1, 93-1, 95-1, 97-1, 99-1, 101-1, 103-1, 105-1, 107-1, 109-1, 111-1, 113-1, 115-1, 117-1, 119-1, 121-1, 123-1, 125-1, 127-1, 129-1, 131-1, 133-1, 135-1, 137-1, 139-1, 141-1, 143-1, 145-1, 147-1, 149-1, 151-1, 153-1, 155-1, 157-1, 159-1, 161-1, 163-1, 165-1, 167-1, 169-1, 171-1, 173-1, 175-1, 177-1, 179-1, 181-1, 183-1, 185-1, 187-1, 189-1, 191-1, 193-1, 195-1, 197-1, 199-1, 201-1, 203-1, 205-1, 207-1, 209

Betrayal of the true sporting spirit

The so-called guardians of international athletics, who voted yesterday, on the eve of the world championships in Athens, to soften the resolve of sport against the abuse of drugs, have betrayed two generations.

First and foremost, there is the coming generation of competitors, those children coming into the care of athletics, for whom the message is abhorrently plain: cheat if you can, take illegal substances where you will, and the worst that the godfathers of your sport have in store for you is a couple of seasons in the sin bin.

At the other extreme, there is the betrayal of Sir Arthur Gold, how an elderly gentleman, but at one time an administrator with more courage and more sense of propriety than many of today's rulers put together.

In his time in charge of British athletics, Sir Arthur took enormous pains, and accepted no less than derision, for his insistence that even if Britain had to go it alone, those responsible for the good of the sport and its future had

to declare this country — unilaterally, if necessary — entirely and totally against doping.

Sir Arthur won his persuasive argument in this country at least. It is a small relief to note that when the acquiescence came yesterday, Britain, as well as Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Norway and some Caribbean countries swelled the vote against ameliorating the punishment for drug abuse.

Still they lost; swayed by Dr Primo Nebiolo, the president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), whose leadership took, as usual, the form of expediency over decency, 112 members voted in favour of halving the four-year ban for drug-takers. Fifty-six voted against, three abstained.

So now many will go into the heat and humidity of Athens lost for hope. Aware that athletics remains at the very core of the Olympic ideal, we must still search these world games over the next nine days — games held in the very cradle of the ethos that spoke of "sound mind in a sound body" — desperately

willing to see it as something more than a sham.

It gets tougher with every passing year. Even Ben Johnson, found guilty of drug abuse at the Seoul Olympics nine years ago, is contemplating court action to win back his place on the track. That was the excuse for a reduction put forward by some who voted yesterday. They claim that because civil courts in Germany have adjudged that



ROB HUGHES
Chief Sports Writer

a four-year ban on someone whose body has been proven conclusively to be riddled with substances that enable him to cheat constitutes a restraint of trade.

I use the word excuse because those gentlemen of the committee could just as easily acknowledge that, also in Germany, there are broken athletes, men and women who were the children of the corrupt East German sporting regime, who are preparing court cases against the doctors and coaches who administered the drugs to them.

Where are we going? Stripped of this trend towards leniency, Nebiolo's credo is one of greed for his sport. He promotes these world championships on faster and faster cycles. He smiles and greets the Greeks, whose ancestors framed the original ethic of sport, an ethic we must surely not surrender as a myth, and acknowledges that Athens is desperate to reclaim the Olympic Games. And Nebiolo, bare-faced, will trot to stage the Olympic Games in 2004 not in Athens, but in Rome. Nebiolo is as bogus as some

of those athletes he would welcome back to the arena, back, nowadays, to monetary prizes that, like drugs, were never part of the Olympic or the athletic dream. But this Latin ruler, together with those Lords of the Rings, Juan Antonio Samaranch and Joao Havelange, promoters of the golden triangle of sport-television-money, should not be made the only scapegoats of the era in which ideology became poisoned.

For if there are corruptors at work, it is the duty of others, those — like Nebiolo — seen fit to govern their sport, to oppose them, to say "no".

It is not only Sir Arthur Gold who is being cheated. It is not merely that drugs are the cheat's substance. It is that these pills, these injections, and these stimulants, given by corrupt chemists who know the repercussions, actually damage the human body, not enhance it. It is high time we found men and women of courage — starting with all the clean athletes — to stand against the warping of the meaning of sport.

David Powell on a Briton timing his run towards sprint glory

Chambers keen to avoid false start

Britain's latest sprint sensation entered a different world here in Athens on Wednesday evening from the one he had left behind on Monday. "I was like a king out there," Dwain Chambers said with reference to Ljubljana, and how the Slovenians had responded to witnessing his piece of athletics history. Now he was having to sample life as a courtier.

Within a week of becoming the fastest teenager of all time, winning the 100 metres at the European junior championships, Chambers flew in to join the Great Britain squad for the senior world championships. His world junior record of 10.06sec places a substantial burden on 19-year-old shoulders.

Chambers offers a bemused look when he listens to a random list of names of athletes who were slower at his age: Carl Lewis, Linford Christie, Donovan Bailey and — dare one say? — Ben Johnson. Already he is faster than Allan Wells, the 1980 Olympic champion, and every other Briton who has run the distance, except Christie.

A Londoner born of Jamaican parents, Chambers did not make the team here for the 100 metres, only for the relay. The frustration that he felt when the team was announced, a week before he went to Ljubljana, has given way to a reluctant admission that it is probably for the best.

This is education time. "I have only ever seen the Donovan Baileys and Michael Johnsons on television."

Chambers said. "I may not run under ten. I may not run that time again for the next two or three years."

Ian Mackie, who has succeeded Christie as British champion and whose best is 10.17sec, drew attention to Chambers enjoying in Ljubljana the benefit of the maximum legal tail wind. "I would have loved those conditions myself," Mackie said. "The first thing I thought was 9.9."

Implicit in Mackie's comment was that he would still expect to beat Chambers and, with maximum legal wind assistance, break ten seconds.

"He is very talented, very strong, and I think he will do extremely well," Mackie added. "But people are going to be looking at him to run 10.1 consistently. There is that kind of pressure on him."

Chambers is 5ft 11in and 13st and Malcolm Arnold, Britain's performance director, described him as "physically precocious". He had, Arnold said, "thrown a hand grenade in among our sprinters". Makes a change from throwing tantrums and spikes, which he did at the world junior championships last year. Expecting a medal, he finished fifth.

"I think my spikes might have hit somebody," Chambers recalled. "The team management tried to talk to me, but I ignored them. That was the turning-point in my career." It was not that he lost, but that he eased up. There must be no more easing up if Chambers is to make the impression as a senior that he has as a junior.

those emotions again, for the worse if theyadden him during the difficult transition from junior to senior ranks. All too often, promising young British athletes have failed to leap the chasm, unable to take the unusual feeling of defeat. The first step towards a successful transition is for the athlete to recognise that he needs to go through the humbling process. Chambers, though still exuberant about his Ljubljana experience, was keen to impress that he was taking nothing for granted.

"People are going to expect big things from me, but I am going to take it year by year," Chambers said. "I do not want to put pressure on myself by saying that, just because I have run 10.06, next year I



Chambers will mix with the world's finest in Athens

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

MOHOHOOH
(a) The white rhinoceros, *Ceratotherium simus*, found in central Africa and Zululand. The Seswana word for the magnificent NOOK.

(b) Literally a nut, but in cookery that part of the fillet of veal to which the fat or adductor is attached. The French for a nut: "The noix de veau is the topside (rump), the fleshy upper part of the leg, cut lengthwise."

LEVADA

(a) In Madeira, a canal for irrigation. The Portuguese word. "Levadas are narrow canals cut out of the solid rock of volcanic basalt of which the island consists: watercourses of masonry, which intersect Madeira like a network, for the purposes of irrigation."

HAPTINE
(c) In P. Earlich's theory of immunisation, a receptor detached from the parent-cell, circulating freely in the bloodstream, and acting as a protection against infection by combining with the foreign substance which would produce it. From the Greek *haptin* to fasten.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

... Nac3 2 Rfb3 3 Rb6+ Qd6 4 Qxb6 checkmate

EQUESTRIANISM

King in pursuit of triple triumph

MARY KING, who last year became the first rider to fill the leading two places in the British Horse Trials Championships, has a chance to go one better at the event when she competes with three former horses (Jenny MacArthur writes). The championships, sponsored by Doubleprint and organised by Captain Mark Phillips, begin today at Gatcombe Park.

In contrast to last year, when there was a depleted field because of the proximity to the Olympic Games, there is a bumper entry, with 245 contenders divided among the

four classes — two advanced sections, the British intermediate championships and the British Open.

Blyth Tait, of New Zealand, with his Olympic champion, Ready Teddy, heads the foreign entry, which also includes two former winners of the Open: Mark Todd, a dual Olympic champion, with Stunming and Word for Word, and David O'Connor, the United States, the winner of Badminton this year, who rides Lightfoot.

However, King, seeking a fourth win, is the rider they all have to beat. She rides King William and King William won at Saumur and Chantilly this year. All three horses underlined their form with double clear rounds at Cornbury last week. King, 36, has an added incentive. Her win in June at Chantilly — Gatcombe's twin event in France — will bring her a £2,000 bonus should she succeed at Gatcombe.

William and King Solomon — who were first and second last year — and Star Appeal, her Badminton runner-up and a leading contender for the team for the European championships next month.

King Solomon and King William won at Saumur and Chantilly this year. All three horses underlined their form with double clear rounds at Cornbury last week. King, 36, has an added incentive. Her win in June at Chantilly — Gatcombe's twin event in France — will bring her a £2,000 bonus should she succeed at Gatcombe.

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King Solomon and King William won at

Rescue scenarios and the swimsuit question

Time was clearly running out. Up to his neck in local opposition and exhausted by the effort of trying to stay democratically afloat, the victim now faced a new threat – an unstoppable tide of dark oppression that would sweep away everything before it. Time, I thought, might be reassuring plunk-plunk of the 999 theme and some sensible advice from Michael Busch: "If you ever find yourself governor of Hong Kong, try not to panic."

"Alas not. When help did finally arrive it was in the shape of the Prince of Wales, the Royal Yacht Britannia and Jonathan Dimbleby. The first two were there to make sure that Chris Patten made it physically out of Hong Kong. Dimbleby was there to ensure that his reputation escaped with him. The Last Governor (BBC1) had reached the final chapter.

Dimbleby's practical advice, it quickly became clear, was to focus

on the "through train of democracy" that we have heard so much about in recent weeks, there was barely a mention. Nor was there an update of what had happened since the handover. Instead, we had some fairly half-baked constitutional stuff, a well-intentioned chat about human rights and an entertaining if shameful row about passports.

The latter not only allowed Patten to claim one of the few victories of his governorship but also to put one over on Michael Howard, who had popped in just to remind us why the Conservatives lost the election and for Patten to all-but-fuel him a racist.

As Howard, in his capacity as former Home Secretary, wriggled,

our man in Hong Kong gloated:

"I'm delighted that he's changed his mind" – shows what a broad-minded chap he is.

Eventually, however, it was all

over. Patten's bottom lip trembled,

he signed a few last bits of legislation and that was it: dum-government. The lovely Lavender helped him pack and his three pretty daughters puffed up to steal the next day's front pages. The band played on ... but then they always do on such occasions.

A little earlier, a slightly re-modelled but still recognisably version of the plink-plink theme tune, meant it really was time for 999, or rather its summer stable-mate, 999 International (BBC1). This turned out to be an excuse for Michael Busch to fly around the world and film expensive-looking links and for Juliet Morris to try out a new swimming cossie.

Now, it's only a few years since the cossie question was the toughest obstacle a female newscaster faced as she sought to diversify her career. Did you do cossie shots – or not? Angela Rippon high-kicked

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

but did not do cossies. The Mues Ford and Scott did neither – I'd definitely have remembered. But then came Jill Dando, who after a couple of seasons of doing imaginative things with a sartorial, thigh-flashing weather girls around. These days the waters of the Mediterranean, Caribbean and Indian

Ocean are forever lapping around a shapely Dando thigh as she delivers a piece to camera.

Where Dando leads, Morris is never far behind, which is why she seems to have spent most of the summer in a swimsuit, was last night skirmishing across the Gulf of riendas in a blue halter-neck and will no doubt return to present a new series of *The House Detectives* in something small, yellow and polka-dot.

In Belize she looked pretty but rather hot. But nothing like as hot as the actor playing the marine biologist who had just swum for six hours across shark-infested waters after his speedboat sank. His sunburn was going to need an awful lot of calamine lotion.

Perhaps it was the distances involved, but the emergencies didn't quite have the impact of the home-grown variety. Then there were the different attitudes of those who had been rescued. Rather

than showing the groveling gratitude to the emergency services that we are accustomed to, last night's survivors placed their faith in a higher authority. The Belize water-taxi owner promptly changed his salvaged boat's name from *Can't Touch This* to *By the Grace of God*, while the Swiss paraglider ranted on about the "inner voice" that kept her calm as she dangled from a tower crane.

Whereas Dando leads, Morris is

never far behind, which is why she seems to have spent most of the summer in a swimsuit, was last night skirmishing across the Gulf of riendas in a blue halter-neck and will no doubt return to present a new series of *The House Detectives* in something small, yellow and polka-dot.

As for the comedy, it was fine without being mould-breaking and nothing like as funny as a hyped-up studio audience seemed to find it. Are lines such as "In France we eat our snails, we do not give them driving licences" really worth a round of applause? However, there were moments worth a chuckle and the supporting cast, while plucked straight from the back catalogue of comic stereotype (pretty waitress, lugubrious policeman, dim youth, etc) seemed promising. For a moment, I thought Didier, the French lorry-driver, represented a genuine spark of originality ... but then I remembered "Allô, Allô" and the moment passed.

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast, Breakfast (56159)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News, (P) (52266)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (56159/24)
9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (56159/24)
9.50 Esther (P) (56159/24)
10.20 The Roadshow Collection (T) (52264)
10.45 Carol Cooper's Cooking with Confidence, Strawberry Jam and Summer Pudding (252249)

11.00 News (T) (563897)

11.05 Due South (T) (563895/24)

11.50 Good Neighbours (515371)

12.00 News (T) regional news and weather (4938197)

12.05pm Whoopie (T) (56180401)

12.35 Neighbours (T) (512371)

1.00 News (T) and weather (2243)

1.30 Regional News (5638938)

1.40 Columbus: Singsong An evil evangelist with a penchant for murder. With Peter Falk, John Cash and Edie Lushington (1-17) (4451352)

3.10 Quincy Three mysterious deaths are traced to a football stadium, where a major championship is due to take place in 8-months of days (T) (51306421)

4.00 Popeye (2491975) 4.10 To Me, To You (7236587) 4.35 It's Never Work... Automated highways and a space enthusiast determined to be the first amateur to put his own rocket into orbit (9836456) 5.00 Newsround (T) (200957)

5.10 Record Breakers (T) (5614310)

5.35 Neighbours (T) (5173371)

6.00 News (T) and weather (52)

6.30 Regional News (34)

7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady... Cook Coronation Street, Ian McEwan and Garry Faye (Garry and Judy Mallard provide the mystery ingredients for Alyson Harriot and Paul Rankin to transform into sumptuous meals in a mere 20 minutes (T) (5934)

7.30 Top of the Pops (T) (28)

8.00 Only Fools and Horses Del seizes a rare opportunity to make a quick profit (T) (702739)

8.50 Get Fit with Britton Bumping Britons meet Nicholas Parsons (T) (534948)

9.00 News (T) and weather (2791)

9.30 Tom Clancy's Op-Center with Harry Hamlin and Rod Steiger. First of a two-part Cold War drama. The head of a doomed military team sets out to prove its worth by embarking on a near-impossible mission to find three nuclear weapons stolen by a Russian agent (T) (125538)

11.25 Without a Clue (1989) Farcical Sherlock Holmes comedy, starring Michael Caine, Ben Kingsley, Lynne Anthony and Peter Cook. Directed by: Roger Ebert

1.10am The Haunted House of Horrors (1969) with Frankie Avalon. A group of teenagers agree to spend the night at a supposedly haunted house ... but the prank goes wrong when one of them meets an untimely end. Directed by Michael Armstrong (1984227)

2.40 Weather (7015444)

BBC2

6.00 Open University: Beyond (1984/5) 6.25 Regions Apart (1748517)

7.15 See, Hear, Broadcast: News (T) and signings (5405791)

7.30 Teleshopping (4089151) 7.55 Postman (103178)

8.25 Cartoon Critics (5060284) 9.00 Spaghetti (7407711) 9.35 Spin Rides (6541248) 10.25 Mr Benn (5522711) 10.45 Teletubbies (T) (561517)

11.15 Harry and the Hendersons (4977536)

12.30pm Working Lunch (44731) 1.00 A to Z of Food (5635313) 1.10 Beechgrove Garden (1009263) 1.40 Menus and Music (5639592)

1.55 Glorious Goodwood Julian Wilson and Clare Balding introduce coverage of the fourth day, featuring the 2.15, 2.45, 3.20 and 3.50 races (7308924)

4.00 Nature (T) and weather (2492625)

4.05 Going for a Song (T) (7434081)

4.30 Cameron (1980) with Glenn Ford and Marla Schaff, Anthony Mann's epic

film account of a family of homesteaders carving out a life on Oklahoma's wild frontier (7181310)

6.35 BBC Points 97 live from the Albert Hall, marking the anniversaries of both Brahms and Schubert, featuring choral works by Johannes Brahms, Schubert and French pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet's performance of Chopin's virtuous second piano concerto. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 3 (65771420)

NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to late naming and change

9.00 Bottom Riddle and Eddie face a lengthy spell behind bars for tapping into their neighbour's gas supply (6-17) (7343)

9.30 Red Nose: Cosey: The incomprehensible Glasgow stars in a new series. With Gregor Fisher and Elaine C. Smith (T) (31807)

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**CRICKET 36**

Essex lay down law
as rain frustrates
championship rivals

SPORT

FRIDAY AUGUST 1 1997

GOLF 37

Rocca swift to
get back into
swing after injury

BAF warns of more drug abuse

Christie leads condemnation of shorter bans

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN ATHENS

LINFORD CHRISTIE may not be here at the world championships to run, but he moved swiftly yesterday to support the British Athletic Federation (BAF) in its condemnation of a decision to reduce drugs bans, for first offences, from four years to two. Christie and the Federation warned that the change would precipitate an increase in the number of athletes taking drugs.

The International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) announced the reduction in penalties yesterday, saying that longer bans would be too expensive to fight in a climate of increasing recourse to the courts. It said that, in some countries, four-year bans on athletes who take drugs were unenforceable and that it would be unfair to continue to operate a two-tier punishment system where competitors received suspensions of varying lengths for similar offences.

Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, said that the world governing body had been forced into this position because "the lawyers are un-

fortunately, very expensive". The BAF, however, wants no relaxing of the regulations despite facing a damages claim of close to £1 million from Diane Modahl which threatens to bankrupt it.

Modahl is suing after a drugs test in 1994, which resulted in her suspension, was shown to be unreliable.

The IAAF has given no financial support to the BAF which was following IAAF procedures.

Undeterred, Britain evidently believes that the price is

too high to pay for protecting the health of the sport.

'It is high time that we found men and women of courage to stand against the warping of the meaning of sport'

Rob Hughes, page 38

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO

Badminton: Exclusion from the game, possibly for life.

Baseball: First offence — two years; second offence — life ban.

Billiards and snooker: Probable disqualification from tournament; repeat offence may indicate expulsion from World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association.

Boxing: First offence — one year; second offence — two years; third offence — life ban.

Cycling: Professionals: First offence — disqualification plus suspension of six to 12 months plus fine and loss of points; Second offence — three-month suspension from competition; repeat offence may indicate expulsion from World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association.

Diving: First offence — one year; second offence — two years; third offence — life ban.

Fencing: First offence — disqualification plus suspension of up to three months and fine and loss of points; Third offence — disqualification plus permanent disbarment and fine.

Gymnastics: First offence — one or six months; second offence — three-month suspension. Second offence — one-year ban.

Hockey: First offence — three-month suspension. Second offence — two-year suspension. Third offence — five-year suspension. Fourth offence — life ban.

Judo: From tournament: Disqualification.

Swimming: Four-year suspension for a positive test for steroids; the period to cover the Olympic Games after the offence. Second offence — one-year ban plus suspension of one to three years plus fine and loss of points. Third offence — disqualification plus permanent disbarment and fine. Finding of illegal substances called "offences" — disqualification plus suspension of up to three months and fine and loss of points. Third offence — disqualification plus permanent disbarment and fine.

Gymnastics: First offence — one or six months; second offence — three-month suspension. Second offence — one-year ban.

Weightlifting: Anabolic agents, peptide hormones, masking agents, diuretics and/or pharmacological, chemical and physical manipulation of urine. First offence — life ban plus fine. Offence involving other substance first offence — lesser suspension plus fine. Second offence — life ban plus fine.

Judo: From tournament: Disqualification.



Dettori smiles as he mounts Classic Cliche before the big race yesterday. His backers were less happy afterwards. Photograph: Adrian Sherratt

Frankie's poor form bucks the system

Lynne Truss finds that Goodwood can be far from glorious if your method of picking a winner leaves you out of pocket



IT'S a well-known fact that Kipling's *If* is written up somewhere prominent at Wimbledon. The reason they don't need it at race meetings is that, as far as punters are concerned, they are well acquainted with *tum-ti, tum-ti triumph and disaster* and treat those two imposters just the same.

On Wednesday nobody was the least bit sympathetic that I had lost twenty quid on well-picked dual runners, not even when I pointed out that for twenty quid you could buy enough baked beans to feed a family for a year. Twenty quid evidently means nothing to the current combination of measures seems to strike an effective balance.

As a deterrent, the rules give a clear message. Reduce this deterrent and there will undoubtedly be many more athletes who will take that chance because two years is not that long. This is not the time to signal to the world that we have lessened our resolve.

Nebiolo, not unreasonably, claimed that athletics had a more thorough testing programme than any other leading sport. However, it took a backward step last March when it reinstated two German athletes after they had served two years because their national law had ruled that a four-year ban was unreasonable. The same would apply, the IAAF said, to athletes from at least eight countries, including France, Russia and Spain.

"Some national courts do not support the four-year ban but they are very few," Warner contested. "Around 95 per cent of all IAAF nations have no such problems. Once again we

that, since Frankie Dettori is the only jockey that I've heard of (and he was riding all day), my choice was, happily, no choice at all. Packing a folded rucksack (to transport my winnings), I set out for the bookies with certain confidence. Frankie's horses sounded like excellent mounts, in any case — Noisette in the 2.15; Bodyguard in the 2.45; Classic Cliche, the favourite, in the 3.20. I liked the sound of Bodyguard, in particular — he was described as a "useful" colt, a school-report adjective

that colour was intriguingly described as "bay or brown"; when you would think someone would know the difference. But ho hum, all split milk now. Noisette, running with six months' supply of my personal baked beans piled awkwardly on her nose, came ninth out of ten, and the only consolation was that her owner, Sheikh Mohammed, probably cared even more than I did, which served him right for being such a souseup.

Come on, Frankie! You can do it! You did it loads of times once, didn't you? Hoping to encourage him personally, I raced to the parade ring to see him mount Bodyguard, got odds of 9-2 and then retired to an excellent vantage point to watch Frankie burn up the turf. He was now in a very beautiful all-green shirt and cap, which looked lucky. Yet, curiously enough, the winner of this race was Daggers Drawn, ridden by Kieren Fallon.

"Fallon?" I said, the name ringing a bell from the racing on Wednesday. What a swizz. Fallon always loses, surely? isn't he known for it?

And so it went on. I'm afraid, with me sticking to my system like a fool. The biggest

race of the afternoon was the Crown Goodwood Cup, in which Dettori, now in a very fetching blue, rode Classic Cliche, "one of the top stayers in Europe" — which sounds like one of those guests who won't leave, but is, in fact, a horse that can run two miles without getting puffed out, clutching the rail and then falling over. But it was not Frankie's day, somehow. A cunning plan to surprise the others and overtake them on the home stretch (a classic cliche in itself) went wrong at the last minute and in a sensational finish, Dettori came second behind Double Trigger.

Now, I don't blame Frankie for any of this. Everyone says he's a lovely bloke. In the flesh, he's very short, of course, but don't forget people also say that about the Queen and Tony Blair. All I would mention here is that race days are a bit tough for the jockeys because, very noticeably, they never get a break for a cup of tea, and in

fact, barely have time between races for the necessary ironing.

What sterling fellows they are, in the circumstances. After not winning the Goodwood Cup, Dettori dismounted without his trademark circus trick, but otherwise looked completely unconcerned. And considering his welcoming committee was the rather scary refuse of Sheikh Mohammed — got up like the cast of *Reservoir Dogs* — this was a real tribute to him.

My final flog was on the 3.50 Schweppes Golden Mile, a handicap in which Dettori's horse was Star Talent, described as "not the most reliable of performers". Hmmm. The way I see it, you lose some, you lose some. One door closes and another shuts. I went for the ten-quid bet again and Frankie came twelfth. When you've got a system, you see, you stick with it, all the way. Otherwise you'd be leaving everything to chance, which would never, never do.

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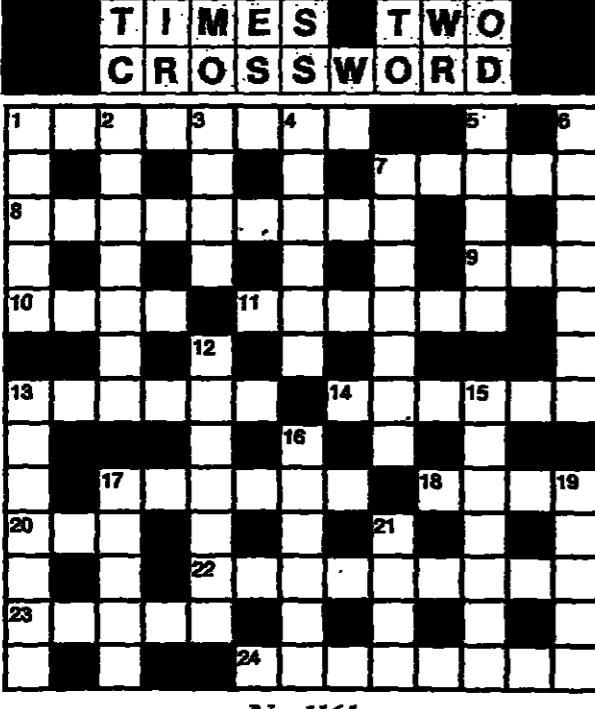
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